

# Calendar of Regular Events

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## **SUNDAY**

09:45	Morning Worship	Church at Dairsie
11:15	Morning Worship	Church at St John's
11.15	Crèche	Old Vestry at St John's
11:15	Sunday Youth Groups	Hall at St John's
11:15	Sunday Squad	Hall at St John's

## **MONDAY**

14:00	Guild	Hall at Dairsie
(Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb)		
19:00	Guild	Hall at Dairise
(Sept, Oct, Mar, Apr)		
(Third Monday of each month)		

## **WEDNESDAY**

09:30	Midweek Service	Hall at St John's
10:00 - 10:30	Tea & Biscuits	Hall at St John's
19:30	Ladies Group	Hall at St John's
(Third Wed of each month)		

## **THURSDAY**

09:30-11:30	Parents & Toddlers	Hall at St John's
14:15	Guild	Hall at St John's
(First Thursday each month, Sept to Apr)		
14:00	Busy Hands	Hall at St John's
(The other Thursdays)		
19:30	Badminton Group	Hall at St John's
19:30	Justice & Peace Group	St Columba's Church
(Second Thursday of each month)		Hall

## **FRIDAY**

08:30 - 12:00	Gardening Group	Grounds at St John's
9:30	Keep-Fit	Hall at St John's
11:00	Drop-in for Carers	Hall at St John's
(last Friday of each month)		

# The Beacon



St John's and Dairsie United Parish Church  
United in Faith. United in Love.

Issue No. 03

August 2016



Next Communion:  
4th September 2016

SCO15721

# Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends

We stand at the beginning of another (academic or school) year.

May we all first congratulate the scholars and students with the results of another year of hard work and great effort. During the second last week of the school holidays we also had another good week of holiday club activities presented by an excellent team. The theme was "The Guardians of Ancora" and reminded us that we are the keepers of the treasure stories about Jesus. May we all live by the hope and encouragement we find from living in a relationship with God.

The four months which lead to Christmas seem to be a filled with opportunities to serve and to grow. Please keep the following in your diaries:

## September

*7 September:* On this evening we have the opportunity to engage in an inter-faith conversation from an

Imam from Edinburgh who will tell us more about his personal experience of Islam. This is a special opportunity but participants are limited to 40. If you want to join, please give your name to Muriel Dymock or Mary Campbell Brown as soon as possible.

*18 September:* An evening service for the Cluster of Churches: Ceres, Springfield and Kemback, Cupar Old and Monimail, St John's & Dairsie.

## October

*8 October:* A coffee morning in St John's hall in support for two African missions: Jenga in Uganda and Polihali in Lesotho.

*30 October:* Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service in St James.

We also have a group of teenagers in a group preparing for membership (and their own growth!)

## November

November will be movies-month. The 4 planned movies will give us

# Church Register

## Deaths

Mrs Eliz Stevenson, Rosturk House, formerly of Watts Gardens	May
Mrs Anne Manson, Avero Bank, N. Union Street, Cupar	May
Mrs Mary McAra, Craighead Care Home (formerly of Edenbank Road)	June
Mrs Beryl Marr, formerly of Westfield Road, Cupar	June
Miss Christine Armit, Ranworth, Millbank, Cupar	June
Mrs Trish Hammond, 35 George Govan Road, Cupar	July
Mr William Hay, Luthrie	July
Mrs Ina Stobie, Rosturk House, (formerly of Bowling Green Road, Cupar)	August
Mrs Linda Laing, Mariofield Place, Cupar	August

*Romans 14:8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*

## New Members

Mrs. Christina Harrison, 1 Curling Pond Court, Cupar - from Kingsbarns Church

*1 Samuel 25:6 And thus you shall greet him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.'*

## Baptism

David Lowe, 5 Carthorpe Road, Lochgelly 17<sup>th</sup> July

*Luke 18:16 Let the little children come unto Me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

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# Notes from the Session

The major preoccupation for the Session since the May edition of The Beacon has been the report which is to be completed by early autumn.

This is a new way of looking at the work being done in congregations and was explained to us in a very helpful meeting in early June. It replaces the outdated Quinquennial visitation, which had, in fact, ceased to be used. Our last one was held in 2003, if I remember correctly.

Two years ago, the minister successfully secured a Heritage Lottery Grant, which funded a book 'Inside Stories' an anthology of stories from the life of the church, produced by a team of members. Copies of the book have found their way across the globe, sharing stories from the life of church over the decades.

In addition to requesting from us the facts and figures about the congregation, it requires us to look to the future and explain our plans and hopes. The other congregations in our Cluster are going through exactly the same procedure.

Following the very successful Ceilidh and the 'Let's build a house for Nepal' coffee morning, the joint activities of the Cluster will continue, with a joint evening service, followed by a barbecue, in St. John's in September, another Ceilidh early in the New Year and a Children's Games afternoon in May at the Bow Butts in Ceres.

It had been intended to repeat the Elders' Conference which we held last year, but it was postponed from June until the autumn because it was impossible to find a suitable date.

Unfortunately, the Keep Fit class for the Retired has been discontinued because the numbers were insufficient to make it viable. So you can expect some of the ladies who attended to lose that air of youthful fitness!

We hope that, despite the dismal summer weather, every one of you has been able to have some special relaxing or fun time—or preferably both - before the leaves begin to change colour.

*Muriel Dymock*

a good opportunity to think and grow together – and just have some fun. Details will be intimated later – but “watch this space”!

## December

This month is always very busy. The one highlight will be the united Christmas Carol Service planned with the St Columba Choir.

This is apart from the normal church activities.

In the spirit of the Olympics: Keep your eyes on the goal!

With love

*Jan Steyn*

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*“One may prefer spring and summer to autumn and winter, but preference is hardly to the point. The earth turns, and we live in the grain of nature, turning with it.”*

*Robert Hass*

# Editorial

Here we are again—I am always drawn to the theme of how quickly time passes. Each new issue seems to sneak up very suddenly no matter how well-prepared I am for its arrival.

Everyone seems to have a busy Summer which can only be a good thing as we all needed distraction from the weather. I know we're in Scotland and it's to be expected but this year really seems to have taken the biscuit as far as wet days and inconsistent weather is concerned.

Thanks to all who have contributed in some way to this issue and again I urge anyone with anything to say to email me and let it be said in the magazine! This is a magazine for ALL of us and as such the contents should reflect all of us in some way. The only sure way to do this is to get as many contributions as possible from all who read this—even if you don't attend Church regularly (or at all), this is our way to communicate with you so please, communicate back with us!

*David Bartleman*

# Busy Hands

It is five years since we started our Thursday 'get-together' which has become an unmissable time in our weekly social diaries! We are happy that, along with other church groups, we have been able to fund several projects which continue to enhance church and hall activities.

We have also been mindful of the needy abroad in sending baby tops, cardigans, hats and blankets, through other charities, to Africa. We have never counted them but an average of two very large sacksful have gone each year.

We have also been happy to help the annual 'Shoebox' appeal by making the warm garments requested for inclusion. And, the time has come round again for you to help. We will be having a stall on a couple of Sundays in September to sell covered boxes, hats, mitts, scarves, toys and other items for you to buy if

you want to fill your own box.

Once again we will be happy to fill a box for you with all the requested clothing, toiletries, etc, for a donation of £20. This can be handed to Etta or Joyce at any time and, of course, we still need donations of empty shoeboxes and any knitting materials you no longer need.

Our light-hearted meetings are open to everyone who is prepared to have 'busy hands' while enjoying a very sociable two hours!

*Joyce MacRae*



road with the people of Polihali for the following ten years to come, through the development stages of the project, to see a community standing strong against the temptations of evil, fathers taking their rightful place, and mothers being competent in nurturing their families the way God want them to and children knowing the Word of God.



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## The Answer to an Unspoken Prayer

Tuesday afternoon, half dozing in the chair and consumed by anxiety for a forthcoming dental appointment.

My (mobile) phone tinged for an email (it is not always switched on); a friend asking if I could help with something next week. I replied with a probable yes but would respond properly after my tooth as I was currently trying to decide whether I would be fit to drive or should book a taxi.

Very quickly my phone rang; my friend wondering what time my appointment was and she wanted

to take me.

The whole experience became better than the worst expectations!

This is just one example of many which I have been aware of over the last number of months and have given me a tremendous feeling of being supported for which I am truly grateful.

As an aside, the message on the blackboard that day was very apt and touched us both.

*Margaret Strachan*

two, construction work will get on the way at Polihali.

The Lord has put it on our hearts to go and prepare and strengthen the people of Polihali beforehand, through the Gospel. After conversations with some of the people there, we realized that they have no idea of what awaits them.

As in Mark 16:7 where Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee, where they would find Him at work, we set off... During our first visit in November 2015, we found the young Pastor Leeto, and a handful of believers in Polihali village, anxiously busy spreading the Gospel and simultaneously strengthening themselves in the Word of God!

Pastor Leeto turned to the Lord, quitted his job in the capital of Lesotho, Maseru, went home to Polihali and started preaching the Good News amongst his family and friends. It has been ten years since....

How wonderful is it to see God's plan unfold: a stirring in our hearts led us to someone who has been

laboring on his own for the past decade! Our obedience turned out to be the answer to his prayer for help!

In January 2016 we have decided as a core leadership team of the Bloemfontein Afrikaans Baptist church whom we represent, to invest in the spiritual growth of this village by working hand-in-hand with pastor Leeto. We aim to do this by visiting at least four times a year with bigger teams out of our church, training the pastor in the grassroots of the Gospel, spreading His love, building friendships, gaining trust. The Jesus Film in South Sotho is a valuable tool, open air bioscope with a life saving Message! Raising up a new generation of believers, we spent time with the children through puppet shows and games.

With every visit we will try to relieve their material and physical needs as well. On 11 June a group will challenge the cold winter weather, taking blankets and food to them.

Our long term vision is to be obedient to His calling: to walk the

## Gardening Group

Our appeal for more assistance in the grounds has been met with a positive response and several new volunteers have now become regular helpers on a Friday morning.

We have tackled the problem of wear on the verges by using grass from the east side of the church and also planting grass seed on the west side. We hope that this will be given a chance to succeed and cars will not be parked too close to the verges.

We have a considerable amount of leaf mould at the back of the church. This has been gathered from leaf fall and after sieving, this will be used on various beds.

As usual we have supported the efforts of Cupar in Bloom by trying to make the grounds as attractive as possible



*John Macpherson*

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## Christian Aid

The result of our Christian Aid collection from the local churches in Cupar was £2,207 of which £872 came from St. John's and Dairsie.

The total for the whole district came to £2,700. This is quite a bit less than last year but one group of churches has yet to have their

collection as there was a clash of dates.

Thank you, as always, to those who contribute so generously.

*Muriel Dymock*

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

# Music Corner

I must admit that it feels strange where better known tunes can be writing a contribution to a church used. after being editor of the one at my previous post for 19 years and 116 editions!!! I would like to tell you what has been happening with the music side of worship here.

I set out modest targets for my first year here. I have tried to re-establish the choir and arrange suitable practice sessions. We now meet on a Friday afternoon at 2pm in St John's, and this has proved to be very suitable to all concerned. We will continue at this time for the coming session, starting on 19 August. So do come along and join us!!!

It is hoped to sing an Introit every Sunday, and also to introduce new hymns to the congregation. With this in mind, some of the choir members have been meeting with me on Wednesday afternoons last Spring and we looked at EVERY hymn in CH4 and Mission Praise. We then compiled a list of hymns we know, we don't know and would like to learn, and even new hymns where the words are appropriate to church occasions and

used.

In June, the choir arranged an evening Songs of Praise in Dairsie, with some of the choir members taking a larger part in the service. This proved to be very enjoyable and meaningful, and we hope to have a similar service in Advent, possibly the first Sunday evening in Advent in St. John's.

When I came here last year, I was amazed at the amount of sets of words and music hymn books we have!!! Obviously we cannot use them all, probably CH4 and Mission Praise mainly with a few from Songs of God's People and Junior Praise as well. There are other sources of modern hymns which I would like to introduce in the coming few months (years???)

If there are any hymns which are your favourites or are meaningful to you, please let me know as it may be possible to include them in a service, or even form the basis of another evening songs of Praise Service similar to the one last June.

## Support to Mission in Lesotho God's Hand working at Polihali\*

(\*pronounce poo-di-ha-di)

Lesotho, also called the Mountain Kingdom, is a small country totally surrounded by South Africa. It is thus also the birthplace of some of South Africa's biggest rivers (Orange and Tugela). The Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme was established during the 1990's to supply water to some of the highest populated and fast growing areas of South Africa. The first phase, Katse Dam, was the beginning of great things for the people of the Mountain Kingdom: it brought electricity and tarred roads, white people and plastic....

The second phase of the LHWS was launched during 2015: approximately 1 500 million cubic metre of water will be contained between the mountains by a 165m high rock fill dam wall and infrastructure like roads and water transfer tunnels.

This brings us to the story of Polihali:

Looking out over the valley, which will be filled with water over the next ten years, is this small village in one of the most unreached regions of Lesotho. Approximately 30 huts build with stone and mud cling to the steep slopes of the Maluti mountain.

With no electricity, running water, medical clinic, school or shop, the living conditions of the community are very poor. They are self-sustaining sheep and goat farmers, dependent for food on the crop of maize that they plant in the shallow mountain soil. Needless to say that after the past very dry season we all experienced, famine is at hand for them this winter.

We have experienced through mission trips to Katse Dam, that with the concentration of nearly 1000 construction workers, problems like prostitution, HIV and Aids, drugs and alcohol abuse, pose a real threat to the surrounding community. Within a year or

but never really have the opportunity to really know them. We felt that this was important because it helped us to share issues with each other that we might not otherwise have chosen to. It was also important for us to agree that whatever is shared in the group remains in the group.

Another rule we had was that anyone and everyone was welcome to join us at any time and I would like to encourage anyone who feels that they would like to know more about what we do to speak to me or any other member of the group. We plan to start meeting again on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Group members: Jack, Elaine & Niall Lyden. Jan & Linda Steyn, Roma More, Dave & Gill Everett, Michael Hammond and Billy Grant.

*Dave Everett*



## The Church Garden in Dairsie

Thanks to the Guild and members of the congregation, what had long ago been the Church garden and more recently a relinquished allotment has been transformed from a bed of weeds into a most attractive garden for everyone to enjoy.

With careful planning using the contours of the ground and the requirement that maintenance should be minimal, a garden has emerged that can be experienced outdoors on warm sunny days and admired through the Hall windows when it is cold and wet.

There are two raised beds filled with favourite plants from our own gardens, giving colour, scent and variety all year round. Most of the area is low maintenance with gravel and slabs.

Already we have shared this venture at our monthly coffee mornings and after the service on a Sunday. With many people involved in its creation, it has become truly a garden of a village community.

*Mary Campbell-Brown*

In conclusion, I must thank all the members of the choir for their support, encouragement and friendship since I came here last year, and may this feeling of togetherness as a team continue for a long time to come.

*Ian McLagan  
Organist and Choirmaster*

PS A joke from a friend(?);  
What is the difference between an Organist and a Terrorist? You can negotiate with a Terrorist!!



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*“Autumn is a second  
spring when every leaf is  
a flower.”*

*Albert Camus*

## Let's Dance

The Tea Dancing has finished for the summer, and will resume again on 12th October at 2.00 pm. We are looking forward to seeing everybody then and perhaps some new faces. We have had a good attendance this year but there is still room for more.



For people wanting to learn to dance, or those who only want a refresher, classes will start on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm – 9.00pm in St John's Hall. Anyone who is interested please contact me either at church or on 655761.

*Val Mckay*

# Fellowship & Outreach

We held a Summer Supper on the evening of June 10<sup>th</sup> when 80 people enjoyed supper and a time of fellowship before being entertained by the Friends of St Columba's Choir. We loved their singing and some of the choir joined us back in the hall for pudding. We did no washing up on the night but the next morning an army of workers arrived and got everything tidied in a very short time. It was a happy evening and due to people's generosity we were able to give more than £250 to the chosen charities of the choir, Maggie's in Dundee and Mary's Meals.

Our group is always busy in July and August and this year has been no different. The Ceilidh for the migrant workers from the local fruit farms was a great success. The youngsters danced all evening and were so happy and enthusiastic. We are indebted to our musicians, pipers, dancers and singers without whom we would not have had such an excellent evening.

On the Holiday Club Sunday we had a Big Breakfast for families

involved in the Holiday Club. We were delighted to welcome almost 100 people and our happy team of 16 helpers resulted in efficient and speedy serving of breakfast.

Our annual coffee morning will be held in August in the Corn Exchange and again we are grateful for the support of so many people. We feel these events give us the opportunity to extend fellowship and hospitality beyond our own churches.

After the September communion, soup and bread will be served in the hall.

As always our team welcomes the support and encouragement of the congregation.

*Aileen, Isabel and Mary*

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*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."*

*Emily Bronte*

# House Group

Early this year a house group started meeting weekly on Tuesday evenings. In our initial meetings we discussed what the purpose of the group was and what "rules" we would have. The rules were easier to decide and, in the end, we only made two rules. Firstly, that we would finish each evening by 8.30 pm, allowing people to get away, and, secondly, we would end each evening praying together. The purpose was a bit more complicated and there was a verse that we sort of used as a manifesto. That verse is Micah 6 vs 8. It says:

*"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

So we felt that the purpose of the group was to explore what that verse meant for each one of us. In essence we all tried to encourage everyone else to understand what it means to be a Christian in the world today and to answer the question "How do I live when I believe that Jesus is my Lord and

Saviour?"

None of us has 'the answer' to that particular question but by talking and questioning and listening to each other, I feel that we helped each other along the way.

Sometimes we did this by talking about issues that were troubling us. We would, at times, read a passage from the bible and discuss what it meant to us and what difference it makes to our lives today. On other evenings we would discuss what Jan preached on the Sunday in a bit more depth (Yes, we could remember!). We would always relate it to our faith today and how we live our lives. One evening we went to a play at a church in St Andrews and, on another evening, we went to a Christian meeting in Auchternuchty called "The Filling Station."

The social aspect of the group, and getting to know each other a bit better, was an important part of our time together. Often you meet people on a Sunday year after year



# The Guild at St John's



The theme for the 2016/17 session is 'Be Bold, Be Strong - Go in Joy!' and our speaker at our first meeting on 6th October, Mr Brian Porteous, will speak on this topic.

We will pick up on the theme at several of our meetings and at the Dedication Service in November which will again be a joint service with Dairsie Guild - this time in St Johns.

Many of our other speakers throughout the session will be telling

us of projects, here and abroad, which aim to bring help, hope and perhaps joy to others. Please watch the weekly church newsletters for details.

As always, we look for your support at our fund raisers. The next is on Saturday 12th November when we will be hosting an Afternoon Tea in the hall from 2.00pm – 3.30pm. See you there and at any of our meetings.

*Joyce MacRae*

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# The Guild at Dairsie



Rev Ian Hamilton will bring joy to the Guild with his music when he opens the new session on Monday 19th September.

Kemback Guild is joining us on 3rd October when we will talk about our own special joys, and on the 7th, Jan Winch will tell us about her family involvement in the Guild.

Still continuing with joy and fun, we mark Guild Week with a 'Games Afternoon' on 21st November.

We still have two more 'Morning Coffees' to come - 8th September and 13th October. Why not come and join us - you will be very welcome.

*Willa Ferguson*



# Coffee Morning

8 October 2016

10 – 12 am

in support of

**Jenga**

and

**Polihali\***

(\*pronounce poo-di-ha-di)

## A Difference-Making Charity in Uganda

*One of the elders of St John's, Elaine Lyden, relates her story of a visit to a life-changing charity in Uganda.*

In October 2013 I had the privilege of visiting the charity Jenga Uganda based in Mbale in the south-east of the country. Mbale is 5 hours from the capital Kampala along the most cratered roads I have ever seen.

Established in 2005 and with a rapidly growing Ugandan staff and unpaid international volunteers (as well as a UK base), Jenga focuses on providing the essentials of life, including water, health and education, to the most needy of communities – women, children and orphans. Its philosophy is to demonstrate the love of God through both words and actions. Without actions, words are, at best, meaningless. Although it is a Christian organisation it provides assistance regardless of race, creed or religious belief: as one worker, Jessica Johns, says: “You see someone orphaned you mother them, you see someone hungry

you feed them, you see someone naked you clothe them. Stories of lives changed, hearts saved, starving bellies fed, sick bodies healed, orphans adopted, the naked being clothed, the lost being found.”

Jessica again : “I love worshipping with my Ugandan brothers and sisters, the way all of the jumping and clapping and shouting embodies the joy of the Lord unlike anything I have ever been part of. I love getting to experience communal living. I love (and at times love to hate) the ability it has to highlight and help prune my never-ending areas of remaining selfishness. I love the hearts of believers here, the way that they take the commands of Jesus so literally. I love that there are so many tangible examples of loving like Jesus.”

Jenga Uganda is guided by the following principles: justice, sustainability, cultural sensitivity, empowerment & partnerships. These values guide Jenga in what it does and, just as importantly, in what it doesn't do.

Visiting Jenga Uganda was a humbling experience: to see first-hand how other people live and witness what God can do through any one of us to make such a radical difference to the lives of others. Despite what may seem to outsiders to be the very bleakest of circumstances, I witnessed first-hand the joyfulness and hopefulness that faith and community can foster through unconditional love. I miss being there and I'm sure I'll go back soon. I have to.

Your support would be so very welcome. As Jenga says, “Without the grace of God, Jenga cannot accomplish anything of lasting value. Even if we had all the money in the world we might still lack what we really need to get the job done. If you are thinking about supporting the work of Jenga we invite you to also consider prayer, asking God to supply us with those things that money cannot buy”.

Current Projects include: Water, Goats, Women's Ministry, Vocational Training, Child Sponsorship, Community Health Training, HIV Programme, Church Ministry, Prison Ministry, Hospital Ministry, Children's

Bible Clubs, Street Children's Ministry, Alpha Uganda and Youth & Sports Programmes.

*Elaine Lyden*



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