

The Beacon



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

Issue No. 05

February 2017



Next Communion: 5th March 2017

SCO15721

Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends

We are well into 2017. The Christmas Season of 2016 has come and gone... so has the first month of 2017 too! Tempus fugit! Time flies indeed. Recently someone has posted on Facebook: "January 2017 was for free. The year starts with February." Well, by the time you read this, we will be close to the end of February too.

Now life is not about the fleetingness of time. It is about life. It is about life with its struggles and hardship, its challenges and surprises as well as its joy and beauty. Our lives are definitely affected by the events in the world wide web of events – such as Brexit, a new presidency in the US and climate change – to name only a few. But I firmly believe that the quality of life is not to be prescribed by the news and newspapers (the "outside") but rather from our hearts and minds, our way of thinking, an awareness of the wonder and beauty of creation and the choices we make in life (the "inside"; our beliefs and values).

In this regard I personally try to keep in mind a few words – but an

important few words – from the Gospel of John (10:10): "I came to give you life in its fullness." Keeping God, the fullness of His love and presence in mind, does indeed add a different quality to life and enable us to live life from a different perspective.

With all this in mind, I reflect on a few events in the last few months.

On Sunday 29 January three teenagers confirmed their personal faith-journey in the service at St John's. For them, their parents and families, for me personally and for all who were there, this was a beautiful moment. It is not the easy way and yet it is the way of deep and honest engagement with life. My prayers – and I believe yours too – will always be with Emily, Daniel and Niall. We also had a few baptisms (and have some ahead). Likewise these events are meaningful and deep and hopefully will have a lasting effect on all our lives.

This, off course, is even more meaningful to me in the light of our imminent departure.

The last (more than) 5 years, my (and our) lives were very closely

linked to all of you. Sunday after Sunday we were together; I have buried some of your beloved ones, baptised some, married a few and shared many lovely times together.

As I leave, I do not leave you behind. You have become part of our story and we have become part of your story too. And that is important. It is life. But more important is that God is the same God; we belong to the same truth whether we are here or there. We are united beyond and above time and distance. We are united by one Creator, one Saviour and one Spirit. In the Bible Jesus called this 'The Kingdom of God'. This Kingdom is always present and always alive. My prayer is that, whether we are 'here or there', we will continue to live and grow in the knowledge of His Kingdom.

It is hard to leave.

But what unites us, remains.

I am only filled with gratefulness for the love and kindness which Linda and I experienced here. Humanly speaking (!) St John's and Dairsie is a dream congregation – one for which I believe the best still lies ahead!

With love

Jan Steyn

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”

Philippians 4:8 New International Version (NIV) 8

Editorial

So you'll see the big news this issue, if you don't already know, is that Jan is leaving us for his own journey. It's a bittersweet time for all of us I'm sure – the sadness of saying goodbye to someone we've grown so attached to but the hope that his journey leads him where he needs to be and that someone new is led to us as part of their journey.

For me, personally, it's a huge blow. I've come to regard Jan as a mentor and, dare I say it, a friend. If it wasn't for Jan I wouldn't be on the path I'm currently taking – and even though my destination

might not end up being as I originally set out, I'm enjoying the process of seeing where I'm led. For that, I owe a huge debt to Jan. That said, it seems to be the way of life – for me at any rate. A mentor enters my life, through their guidance, help or suggestion I set a new path and then when I start that path they vanish. It certainly reaffirms that there's a grander plan to unfold for all of us.

David Bartleman

Busy Hands

Our ladies are pleased to have raised enough money to have a Defibrillator installed on the outside wall of the church. It is there for public access round the clock in an emergency.

We continue our happy weekly meetings and the boxes are filling up again with knitted and sewn

items for home and abroad. We will have a stall at the Guild Afternoon Tea on 10th March.

New friends always welcome on a Thursday afternoon.

Joyce MacRae

Property Team

Much of the team's work over the past few months has been very routine but with the last of the paperwork from the spire project completed and all the grant money gathered in we can start doing things again.

The first major project was to re-point the north gable of Dairsie Church and replacing some of the defective stonework. This work has been completed and it sets off the lovely garden which has been created at Dairsie.

At St John's we have been aware of a roof problem on the east side of the church and now we have placed a contract to have the gutter replaced and the roof above the east stair repaired. This work should commence soon.

With buildings as old as ours it is wise to expect the unexpected! Just before Christmas a crack was noticed in one of the ceiling arches in St John's. As soon as the trade holidays were over Donaldson of St Andrews was contacted and came out immediately and set repair work in train. This has meant the use of a fairly large scaffold as further cracks were observed in the area.

On Sunday 22nd January the congregation was herded into the west side of the church and the west gallery for the service which was being taken by a visiting minister. Thanks to a group of volunteers who worked on the Saturday afternoon cleaning and polishing, the church was ready for use and no one got dust on their clothes. Everyone co-operated and as normal there was a lovely friendly atmosphere.

Changes in insurance law mean that we must all be even more vigilant and if anyone notices a hazard or a potential risk there are note books in both churches for faults to be noted.

Finally, I would like to step down from the post of Team Leader and I hope that someone will be willing to take up this very interesting and rewarding task.

Ian G. Wotherspoon
Property Team Leader

Fellowship & Outreach

We sometimes feel in our Fellowship and Outreach Team that we are the Coffee Morning people. However it is what we do! The Christmas Coffee Morning was a success and we enjoyed a morning of fun, fellowship and good nature.

The churches looked beautiful and were appreciated by the many people who worshipped in our buildings in December.

In the last edition of Beacon it was mentioned that we are planning to hold a concert on Friday March 24th. The proceeds of the

concert will be given entirely to the Lighthouse Refurbishment programme, as it is a vital ecumenical outreach in our community. Tickets and more information will be available soon.

During our forthcoming vacancy it will be business as usual in our group and as always we welcome ideas, suggestions and the support of our congregations.

Aileen, Isabel and Mary

Ladies' Group

The Ladies' Group Christmas Evening with entertainment by Master Berghuis and Mrs. Margaret Pavey, followed by a delicious buffet, was much enjoyed.

'A night at the movies' in January was a success and we look forward to Dr Jon Richmond's talk '24 hours in the life of' in February. In March Andy Paterson will tell us of the 'Stars of the Silver Screen', and at the April meeting

we will hear about Chi Kung from Dot Montgomery.

The session concludes with a walk followed by supper in May.

New members are always welcome.

Marion Mackenzie

An Editor's Tale of Woe

The purpose of writing this is to let people see the process of getting the magazine out to you, you and you. I hope it helps to illustrate the effort that goes into the making of the magazine and perhaps inspire you to contribute in some way.

The first step is the date of printing – everything revolves around that magical date. The magazine is issued a week or so before Communion so we work backwards from the Communion date. The magazine should be in the Elders' pigeon holes two weeks prior to Communion. It takes roughly a day's work to print, staple and fold (roughly 7 hours solid) and a couple of days to design a finished product from the various articles I receive. My wife does a great deal of the layout or at the very least points me in the right direction and then it's time to fill in the blanks – at this point I look for appropriate quotes, jokes or material for children. So working backwards from that, I generally ask for articles to be sent to me by a date of 3 weeks before Communion. That gives, in theory, plenty of time to fit everything together and to layout everything before the big print day.

Of course in reality, what happens is that either Muriel or Roma will ask about the cut-off date for submissions so it can be included in the Church News or intimations. I will not have thought about the date and buried the need to think about it deep, deep, deep down in my mind until this happens. And, of course, it's panic stations when it DOES happen and I have to work out the dates, think about what I've got coming up in terms of meetings, studies, lectures, essays, so that I can ensure there's enough time to get the printing done.

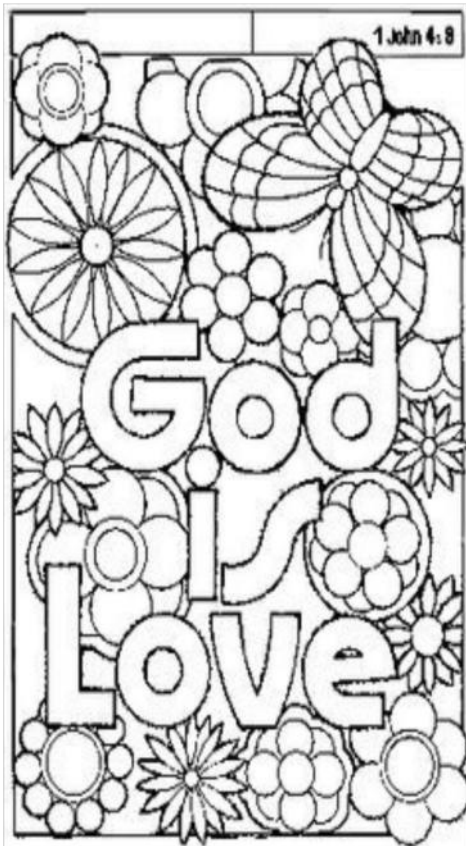
Latterly, I've also met with Jan to discuss a theme of sorts for the issue. This helps me think about the type of image to set as the cover and the type of quotes to go for. Regarding the cover, my aim is for something that catches the eye and intrigues – people are aware that it's a Church magazine and I'm sure a number of people who receive it will probably not read it... I just want to draw in and intrigue those people enough that they just might read an article...and think it's interesting...and then they just might think about coming to church on a Sunday to check it

out.

Colouring

Ultimately, I am constantly tweaking the magazine to make it look better and to give it greater content. Time is always a factor. For example, every 4 pages – one A4 sheet of paper – adds an entire hour of printing. I aim to keep the magazine at 20 pages and sometimes the reports I receive are pretty much all there's space for but I'm really keen for more involvement with content – be it reviews, news, personal stories, everything is welcome and will be used at some point.

David Bartleman



“We must be open to the possibility of God’s addressing us in whatever way he chooses, or else we may walk right past a burning bush.”

Dallas Willard

“All the persons of faith I know are sinners, doubters, uneven performers. We are secure not because we are sure of ourselves but because we trust that God is sure of us.”

Eugene H. Peterson

Notes from the Kirk Session

There is clearly one topic which is preoccupying us all at this time: namely, Jan's impending departure from our midst.

It was with the greatest regret that I heard of his call to the Scots Kirk in Paris. In his five years here he has had a remarkable influence in many ways. Jan is constantly thinking imaginatively about the Christian faith and about ways of conveying its meaning to others. At a time when there is much talk about the problems of making contact with the younger generations - and by that I do not mean only the teenagers but the generation above them - Jan has certainly helped to prepare the way with his much more relaxed approach to the conduct of services, his work in the Schools and in Messy Church and the Holiday Club. Inter-Church relations, too, have prospered. He had plans to attack the problem of the missing generations but the resolution of that problem in our congregation will pass to us and to whoever leads us in future.

It was therefore a particular pleasure to be present at the lovely service at which three young people committed themselves to member-

ship of the Church at the end of January.

We are very blessed to have much of the uncertainty, which accompanies any vacancy, removed this time, following the offer by Rev Ian Wotherspoon to be our Locum during the vacancy. We are deeply indebted to him and we as a congregation must, in return, give him every possible support.

Indeed that must be the keynote for the foreseeable future. I have been told that we will not know before June at the earliest what the decision is about our future. We must therefore work together to maintain our strong and welcoming fellowship, ready to offer assistance when asked, being in our place Sunday by Sunday as often as possible and not allowing ourselves to fall prey to despondency if procedures are much slower than we would wish (and that is almost certain to be the case! It is said the "the mills of God grind slow" but there are others which grind even slower!)

With the support of everyone, we can ensure that the congregation continues to grow in strength, fellowship and faith in the coming

months, so that we continue also to witness in the community in a time when the need has never been greater. That is the challenge.


Some of us will be present at Jan's induction and he will be preached in by Rev. Ian Wotherspoon.

Jan and Linda take with them our prayers and best wishes for a happy and fruitful ministry in Paris

and for happiness in what will be a very different society.

Muriel Dymock

Kirk Session Dates 2017



Wednesday 25th January
Monday 24th April
Monday 28th August
Wednesday 25th October

Communion Dates 2017



Sunday 5th March
Sunday 4th June
Sunday 3rd September
Sunday 3rd December

Letter of Herald

This letter has been published in the Herald and has created a lovely little stir in all who've read it. It is included here so that all Beacon readers may benefit from it and perhaps take the time to show it to friends and family with hope that it gives them food for thought.

Editor

Over a year ago I attended our Parish Church for the funeral service of a friend. The popularity of the friend was demonstrated by the fact that all the seats on the ground floor were filled as were three quarters of the upstairs seats. A month later I attended another Church funeral service of another friend in Perth. This time there was no upper floor and as all the ground floor seats were filled, mourners were standing two deep around the inside walls of that church.

At these two services many people attending were similar to me and did not attend church regularly, if at all. This led me to think of the fact that church after church is closing down, and what will happen in the future to funeral services when there are very few, if any, churches available. Funeral services are also held in Crematoriums and as Churches

close and therefore less Ministers are available, Humanist and Celebrant people are taking these services, but it is apparent that services in Church with Priest or Minister continue to be a prevalent and popular choice.

I concluded that it would be hypocritical of me, if having these thoughts, I didn't do something about it as reports continually refer to reducing congregations and in many churches there are only a few under 40 or 50 year old people attending.

So I started attending Sunday church services at the local church and have found the experience to be more than refreshing for me. In addition I receive the friendship and fun given by the Minister and the congregation. Dress code is smart/casual or Sunday best, it makes no difference and is barely noticed. The sermons are more

than interesting, are applicable to the 21st Century and do relate to our modern lifestyle. Most of the Hymns are enjoyable to sing and the tea/coffee/chat after the service helps to form and improve our community. The church continues to be popular for weddings, baptisms as well as social and speaking events which are well supported.

Hopefully my small effort will go some way to keep the church open for a bit longer and this letter will have people react and consider attending and supporting their local church and even getting more community spirit.

From: Tom Taylor
4 Hill Street
Cupar
KY15 4AA

Tel: 01334 653335

*"I'm not what I ought to be.
I'm not what I want to be. But
still, I'm not what I used to be.
And by the grace of God,
I am what I am."*

Newton

Pippa's Song

*The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!*

Famous passage from the verse drama 'Pippa Passes' written by Robert Browning (1812-1889), submitted by Mary Campbell-Brown.



The Guild at St John's



We have been enjoying a programme of talks this session which have given us an insight into the work of good causes at home and abroad.

The most recent was the story of 'The Palpa Trust' which is helping to fund schools and fresh water projects in Nepal. In March we will hear of another Scottish charity which is helping people in Malawi to grow fruit and so provide for their families. April will bring us nearer to home when we hear of the initiatives to help people with learning difficulties to

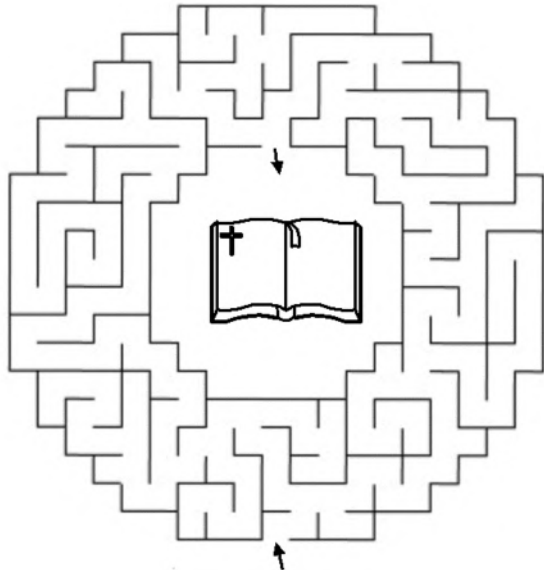
have a meaningful involvement in church life.

We always want to give a donation to the work of all these worthwhile efforts and we do this by holding our Afternoon Teas. Please come - and bring your friends - to our next one which will be held in the hall on Friday 10th March from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Your support is much appreciated.

Joyce MacRae

MAZE

Help the children return home to collect their bible.



The Guild at Dairsie



As Spring will soon be upon us, our thoughts turn to the monthly 'Morning Coffees'. The first one will be on Thursday 9th March, then on the second Thursday of each month all summer - in the Church Hall, from 10.00am to 11.30am. We look forward to welcoming not only the 'regulars', but hopefully this year we will see some new faces.

supporting different projects in this country and abroad. This year, one of our projects is the work of 'Street Pastors' and we look forward to hearing about it on 20th February at 2.00pm. Anyone interested is very welcome to join us then, or at any of our meetings.

Willa Ferguson

That's the fun side of the Guild - the social and outreach side - but the Guild has a serious side too,



Jesus Loves Me!

The minister announces to the congregation; “Let us sing hymn 564, Jesus loves me.....” We stand up and sing the words from the book or from power-point. Then we sit down. But do we REALLY understand the words we have sung? Many of us do not know why the words for this hymn were written, and if the truth be told, I doubt if people really read the words we sing; we know the tune, we know the words and everybody is happy.

CH4 does not give us the proper version of this well-loved hymn. Here is the original version;

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Refrain: *Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!*
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.
2. Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee, Saying, “Let them come to Me.”
3. Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give Light and love to all who live.
4. Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.
5. Jesus loves me! He will stay Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for Thee.

Why
these words written?

were

“**Jesus Loves Me**” is a Christian hymn written by Anna Bartlett Warner (1827–1915). The lyrics first appeared as a poem in the context of an 1860 novel called *Say and Seal*, written by her older sister Susan Warner (1819–1885), in which the words were spoken as a comforting poem to a dying child. As soon as the words were written, the child tragically died. The tune was added in 1862 by William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868). Along with his tune, Bradbury added his own chorus “Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus Loves me...” After publication as a song it became one of the most popular Christian hymns in churches around the world, especially among children.

Ian Mclagan

Church Register

Deaths

Mr David Barclay
Mr Ian McLachlan

January
January

Wedding

Carrie Gray to Rory Mackay

26th November 2016

Baptisms

Leia Gabrielli
Katelyn Pearce

5th February
12th February

Left by Certificate

Mrs Cathie Burgess

New Members by Profession of Faith

Emily Li Xi Challice
Daniel William Campbell Rodger
Niall Lyden

New Members by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Miss Karen Caldwell
Mrs Naomi Bradbury
Mr David Everett
Mrs Jill Everett
Mr William Gabrielli
Mrs Jacorien Gabrielli
Mr William Grant
Mr Jack Lyden,
Mrs Margaret Pavy
Mr Ian Shanks
Mr Alistair Thorpe
Mrs Angela Thorpe

Calendar of Regular Events

SUNDAY

09:45	Morning Worship	Church at Dairsie
(First of every month is	Café Church)	
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
(First and third Monday of each month	September to April)	

TUESDAY

19:30	House Group	The Manse
-------	-------------	-----------

WEDNESDAY

09:30	Midweek Service	Hall at St John's
10:00 - 10:30	Tea & Biscuits	Hall at St John's
10:15	Bible Study	Session Room
14:00-16:00	Tea Dance	Hall at St John's
19:00-21:00	Men's Group	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)		
14:00-16:00	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
11:00	Drop-in for Carers	Hall at St John's
(last Friday of each month)		
19:00-21:00	Ballroom Dancing Tuition	Hall at St John's

St John's and Dairsie United Parish Church — Office Bearers 2017

Minister	Rev Jan Steyn	650751
Session Clerk	Muriel Dymock	653164
Treasurer	Joy Roberts	01337 828722
Church Secretary	Pauline Craig	652049
Church Officer	Mike Mcghee	07742841918
Magazine Editor	David Bartleman	769447
Hall Bookings	Moirá Brown	653154
Membership Roll Keeper	Craig Stockton	654349
Presbytery Elder	Pauline Craig	652049
Finance Coordinator	Michael Hammond	654243
Safeguarding	Mary Campbell Brown	652313
Coordinators	Andrew Kennedy	654432
Sunday Youth Group	Martin Orr	650995
Sunday Squad	Kathy Mccall	655721
Creche Organiser	Vacant	
Guild (St John's)	Kathleen Menaughton	656241
Guild (Dairsie)	Willia Ferguson	652256
Life & Work	Aileen Kennedy	654432
Flowers (St John's)	Olivia Fraser	654707
Flowers (Dairsie)	Jean Anderson	870168
Ladies Group	Eileen Fairbairn	656195
Busy Hands	Joyce Macrae	654550
Badminton	Magnus More	656379

