

The Beacon



St John's and Dairsie United Parish Church

Issue No. 08

United in Faith. United in Love.

November 2017



Next Communion: 3rd December 2017

SCO15721

Letter from the Locum



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this Christmas will be getting all too close and I will be panicking about getting Christmas Cards written in time. It is always a busy time of year but for all its busyness there is something special and very nice about it as we renew old friendships and get in touch with people we still remember but seldom manage to see. With all of this going on we must never forget the wonderful story at the heart of it all as we remember God coming into our world.

Another special feature of this season is that sometimes people with no formal church connections appear in our churches, perhaps because they like singing carols or just want to hear the story of Bethlehem, the shepherds and the angels and a small vulnerable family at the centre of it and marvel that this is how God enters our world, our lives our consciousness. Our task as always is to make them and everyone who comes within our walls very welcome.

Lots has happened since I last wrote, the Silent Auction which raised over

£1,600 which we split with Cupar YM/WCA to help with a costly repair to their building. The new Marie Curie Fund Raising Group held a coffee morning in our hall which raised over £800, and though it is not one of our organisations many of our members were involved. It is good that we support things that are going on in our community and put our faith into action. The Shoe Box Appeal is another example of being concerned for the poorest in our world and the retiring offering at the December Communion will be for Age Concern.

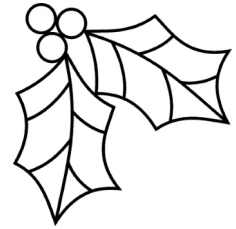
All this ties in with Christmas because the real point of that story is that God did not choose to sit above it all but in Jesus was involved in life on earth and through his Spirit of love is still and always will be involved.

I hope many of you will manage along to our Christmas Services and I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

With best wishes from your Locum,

Ian G. Wotherspoon

Editorial



I know it's a cliché about shops starting Christmas earlier every year but I swear I saw some shops with Halloween decorations side-by-side with Christmas items.

Anyway, here we are at the end of another year and the hope that St John's and Dairsie United Parish can have a fresh start soon in 2018.

Thankfully we've had the wonderful Reverend Ian Wotherspoon "minding the store" (and more) since Jan's departure and we can take comfort that

he is around for as long as we need him.

Christmas is still more than a month away at time of writing but, regardless, may yours be merry, may your kindness show to others and may 2018 bring greater hope than the, quite frankly rather odd, 2017 has brought!

David Bartleman



Ladies Group

Colin Moore opened the session in October, recalling, with amusement, his working life in primary school education both as Head Teacher and Inspector.

In November, Margaret Pavey entertained on the piano with theme tunes from films and musicals. This was interspersed by Kathleen McNaughton's amusing anecdotes, in verse, appropriate to the tune played.

We look forward to the Christmas party on 20th December when we will have entertainment followed by a buffet supper.

A Thank You card was received from Busy Hands acknowledging a donation from the Group.

Marion Mackenzie

Fellowship & Outreach

In October we held a Silent Auction and after a quiet start we were thrilled to raise the magnificent sum of £1,600, which we shared equally with the church and the YMCA to help their Gable Appeal. We so enjoyed being able to help our neighbours and at the auction we also appreciated being able to sell by donation the wonderful collection of books donated by the family of the late Bill and Margaret Mackenzie.

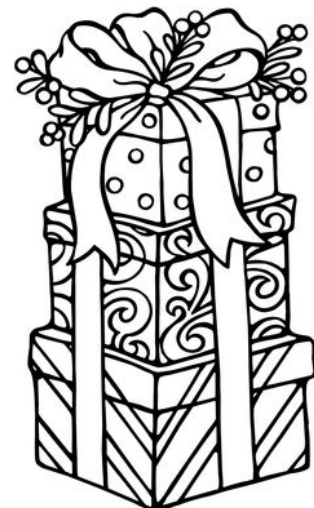
In the autumn there was the annual coffee morning in the delightful setting of Dairsie House. The coffee, excellent baking and the autumn colours were much appreciated by all who attended.

We will hold a concert on Friday 23rd March 2018, when Ensemble will return to sing the music of Irving Berlin. The proceeds will be divided between our church and Age Concern Cupar.

As always at this time of year we are thinking about our annual Christmas Coffee Morning, which will be held on Saturday 16th December in St John's Church hall. It is always a happy occasion and we look forward to sharing the Christmas season with you all.

Aileen, Isabel and Mary

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* 
presence





The Guild at Dairsie

After our Musical Afternoon in December, we have 'members afternoons' in January, then in February we will learn something of the work of The Samaritans. In March, Rev Marion Paton will be our speaker and by then, on the social side, it will be the start of the

summer 'Morning Coffees', bringing everyone together again.

'Carols in the Cafe' in the Church Hall is being planned for Thursday 28th December at 2 o'clock - everyone welcome.

Willa Ferguson



The Guild at St John's

We have had a successful start to our new session and look forward to the programme planned from now until April.

Please watch out for more details in the Church News and come and join us.

Joyce MacRae

Notes from the Kirk Session

At long last we can report that permission has been granted for us to call a Minister, with a 7 year charge. That means that we are secure in the tenure of a Minister for 7 years as from now. The more usual expression is 7 year tenure, which would begin when a Minister takes up the charge.

Once the Nominating Committee has been elected on 26th November, we can proceed to make it known that we are seeking applications. I say this with the added warning that, in the present circumstances, with so many vacant charges, it may take some considerable time to find the right person. At least when we have a Committee, we know they will do their very best to do just that. We must support them with our prayers.

In the meantime, we express our gratitude to Rev Ian Wotherspoon for his leadership and his care for the congregation which, in every way, goes well beyond what is ex-

pected of a Locum Minister - in theory Sundays and 2 days a week! We must give him our whole-hearted support. We are grateful, too, to Rev John Duncan, our Interim Moderator, for his support and encouragement.

You will be aware that the needs of local organisations has been a key note in our recent activities. The very successful Silent Auction, which raised over £1,600, was shared with Cupar Y, as they raise funds for major repair work.

Our retiring offering on Communion Sunday will go to Age Concern and the equivalent of our Christmas Gift Service will help to provide toys for the children of local families in need.

Our defibrillator has, of course, been in place for many months now on the wall of St John's. People in desperate straits abroad have not been forgotten, as the 'Autumn Leaves' Coffee Morning held by Mary and Colin Campbell Brown

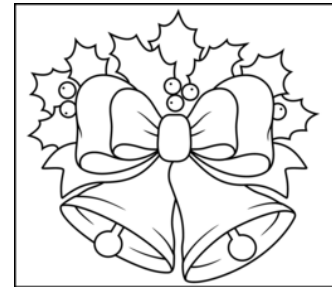
at their home near Dairsie was donated to Christian Aid to assist with relief for the hundreds of thousands of Muslims fleeing from Myanmar.

As Christmas approaches, we look forward to welcoming everyone to the services and other activities at this busy, often exhausting but still

happy time of year. A diary for December is included so that everyone knows what is happening. It is a very full diary!

In the meantime we wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Muriel Dymock



Gardening Group

Another season has come to an end and as usual we finished with a lunch, this time at Clayton. It is great to see the enthusiasm of our group who turn up faithfully every Friday to make the grounds as attractive as possible. I must mention here the support, advice and help we received over the years from Mary Law. She always saw us an integral part of "Cupar in Bloom"s efforts in achieving success in national competitions. In

fact judging often began in the grounds of St John's before moving on to visiting other areas of Cupar.

However if we are to keep up the same level we urgently need more help on a Friday morning so if you can spare some time on a Friday morning next year we will be delighted to see you.

John MacPherson

December Services and Other Events

3rd	Communion Sunday – Retiring Offering for Age Concern Annual Lighthouse Service in St John’s (6.00pm)
5th	Cupar Community Concert in St John’s (evening)
9th	Cupar Choral Concert in St John’s (7.30pm)
10th	Morning Worship in both Churches, to be led by the Choir United Town and Cluster Carol Service in Cupar Old Parish (6.00pm)
16th	Christmas Coffee Morning in St John’s Hall (10.00am) “Friends of St Columba’s School Choir” Concert (7.30pm)
17th	Morning Worship in both Churches
20th	Castlehill Nativity Play in the Church (Dairsie School will hold a Nativity Play in the Church-date to be arranged)
22nd	Fife Nativity Play at St John’s
24th	Christmas services in both Churches in the morning Christingle Service in St. John's (mince pies in hall) (6.30pm) Carols and readings at Dairsie (8.00pm) Carol service in St. John's (11.30pm)
25th	Short Service Christmas Day (10.00am)
28th	Carols in the Café, at Dairsie (2.00pm)
31st	Joint Service in Cupar Old Parish Church

Eco Congregation Update

What's happening to our weather?

Scotland's longest lasting patch of snow was expected to melt away by 14th October. Scientists say that the patch, known as the Sphinx, Garbh Choire Mor on Braeriach in the Cairngorms, has disappeared only 6 times previously in the last 300 years. According to records, the snow previously melted in 1933, 1953, 1959, 1996, 2003 and 2006. The Sphinx is one of only two patches of snow surviving in Scotland's hills this year. The second patch at Aonach Beag is also expected to melt away over the next few weeks.

Another point of interest:

In August it was reported that for the first time in 11 years there was **no snow on Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis.**

Eco Congregation Scotland helps Recycling!

The Scottish Government has announced that it will introduce a deposit return scheme for drink packaging including plastic bottles and cans. This is the culmination of a campaign Eco-Congregation Scotland has been part of for the past eighteen months. When we first mentioned deposit return in our social media account and newsletter it got the biggest response of any issue we have been involved in. It seemed to strike a chord with Christians and churches so we officially joined the 'Have you Got the Bottle' Campaign.

Margaret Kennedy

Life & Work



Our readership of Life & Work has remained steady throughout this year. The magazine keeps readers in touch with the thinking and views of many members of the Church of Scotland. It also has articles about the wider work of the church.

Even if it is not your opinion it is still interesting to read about the views of others.

If you wish to start receiving Life

& Work please telephone or e-mail me. The cost for 2018 will be £27.50, which is the same as last year, and the money is collected in the early part of the year.

The magazine is available to be collected from the organ corner on the first Sunday of every month.

Aileen Kennedy

e-mail: aileenkennedy@gmail.com

Tel: 01334 654432

New Year's Day Walk at Dairsie

Want to get fit for 2018? Why not join us for our annual country walk on the first day of the year?

We leave from the Church at 2 o'clock for an easy walk, then its back to the hall for a cup of tea.

Suitable footwear essential!



Willa Ferguson

Busy Hands



We are delighted to have been able to fill sixty (yes 60 !) shoe boxes for the Blythswood appeal. Thanks to our members' work throughout the year, and to donations of goods, we had a good supply of garments to fill boxes for all those who entrusted us with their £20 donations. The work goes on and we are always grateful for any knitting wool that we can use.

Some of our members knit baby garments for another overseas charity and a large bag of these was sent on its way recently.

I have been given a quantity of tapestry wool suitable for canvas needlework and I propose to invite anyone who would like to learn this craft - or to continue with it - to join us on our Thursday afternoons in the new year. A donation for materials will be taken. This is in addition to our usual activities and new members who want to come along and 'do their own thing' are always welcome.



Joyce MacRae

'Thank You to St John's'

We first started attending the Wednesday morning Services when the Baptist Church was in vacancy, prior to Tim Power, and have continued to attend as often as we can.

We would like to thank the people of St John's for welcoming us to their "wee" services and even allowing us to lead the occasion-

al one. We appreciate the chance to worship together, sing together and have a cup of tea and chat afterwards.

Thank you for the chance to be "Christians together" and long may this continue.

Ann Marshall

More than the Postage?

Have you ever sent something small and realised the postage cost more than the something?

I once sent a Malteser reindeer or rabbit to some friends - too involved to explain, and other chocolate characters are available by the way.

It was the thought behind the gift and we all had a smile as a result.

I have recently received two separate gifts through the post, both hedgehog shaped, one quilling, the other chocolate. One came from America and the postage cost far exceeded the monetary price on

the gift.

In all cases it is the thought; the thinking about the person to whom the gift is going that is actually without price.

As a giver, and a receiver, I can vouch for that, and with it, the priceless reminder that God works through family and friends and is our Constant support and stay through all times.

So, if you spot something small that brings someone to mind, send it if you can, and count the thought not the postage.

Dancing



Our dance classes finish on 5th December and resume on 9th January and the Tea Dances finish on 6th December and resume on 10th January.

Val Mckay

Church Register

Deaths

Mrs Margaret Reid	October
Dr Gordon Russell	October
Mrs Mary Law	October
Mr Thomas Duncan	October

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.



Calendar of Regular Events

SUNDAY

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

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 (Third Wed of each month)	Ladies Group	Hall at St John's

THURSDAY

09:30-11:30	Parents & Toddlers	Hall at St John's
14:15 (First Thursday each month, Sept to Apr)	Guild	Hall at St John's
14:00-16:00 (The other Thursdays)	Busy Hands	Hall at St John's
19:30	Badminton Group	Hall at St John's
19:30 (Second Thursday of each month)	Justice & Peace Group	St Columba's Church Hall

FRIDAY

08:30 - 12:00	Gardening Group	Grounds at St John's
11:00 (last Friday of each month)	Drop-in for Carers	Hall at St John's
19:00-21:00	Ballroom Dancing Tuition	Hall at St John's

