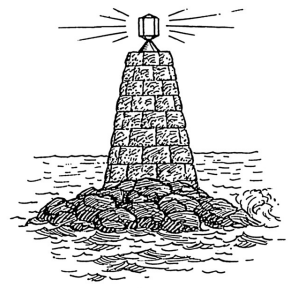


The Beacon



St John's & Dairsie United Parish Church
United in Faith : United in Love

SPRING
EDITION
2026



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.”

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

What's On at St John's & Dairsie

Sundays:	10.30 am	Worship at Cupar St John's <i>Tea/Coffee/Fellowship after the service</i>
Mondays:		Dairsie Friendship Circle: War Memorial Hall <i>(second Monday of each month)</i>
Wednesdays:	9.30-10.30 am	Midweek Worship
	10.30-1.30 pm	Warm Welcome Wednesdays
	2.00-4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea Dance (Oct-May)
	7.30 pm	Monthly Reflective Worship <i>(first Wednesday of each month)</i>
Thursdays:	9.30-11.30 am	Toddlers at St John's <i>(term time)</i>
	2.00-4.00 pm	Busy Hands
Fridays:	11.45 am-1 pm	Drop-in at St John's <i>(last Friday of each month)</i>

What's On at the Old Parish Centre

Our friends at Cupar Old run a variety of weekly social groups and events. As we grow together this year towards the union of our congregations, we are encouraged to share in fellowship.

Mondays: Lunches in the Lounge at the Old Parish Centre 10 am–1.30 pm

Wednesdays: Renew Wellbeing Café in the Lounge at the Old Parish Centre 10 am-12 noon

Wednesdays: Craft Group in the Meeting Room at the Old Parish Centre 2 pm

Thursdays: Coffee and Chat in the lounge at the Old Parish Centre 10 am

Holy Week Services

The ecumenical evening worship services for Holy Week are hosted this year by St John's & Dairsie.

From Monday 30th March–Friday 3rd April, services begin at 7 pm each evening in the Sanctuary, with a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Thursday service.

On **Good Friday**, the Walk with the Cross begins at 1 pm at St James the Great, then visits St John's and Dairsie, Cupar Baptists, St Columba's and ends at Cupar Old. Light refreshments are on offer afterwards at the Old Parish Centre.

On **Easter Sunday**, there is early morning worship on Tarvit Hill at 8 am. Easter Sunday worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion is at 10.30 am in St John's Sanctuary.



FIFE



PRESBYTERY

Presbytery Mission Plan Update

I would like to give you an update in relation to the Presbytery Mission Plan for the Cupar Cluster. As you know, Gavin's last working day will be Sunday 21st June 2026, and his retirement date is 30th June. We also now know that Rev Jeff Martin is leaving later in the year. From the time of Gavin leaving we will, subject to congregational votes, enter into a deferred union. This allows us to begin the process of calling a minister for the new charge. An Interim Moderator will have been appointed, and this person will guide us through the next steps. These will include drawing up a Parish Profile and appointing a nominating committee. When Jeff leaves, a date will be set by Presbytery for the Union to be enacted.

In the meantime, it is the hope of the three Kirk Sessions that we continue to build on our relationships and work together for our shared future.

Rhona

Warm Space



Warm Space numbers are slowly increasing after the cold wet weather and probably colds and flu. We do sometimes still have quieter days but we feel this is still very worthwhile and perhaps we are the only people some speak to on the day. To know we are helping by offering food and providing warmth with a friendly face and a listening ear which is definitely beneficial to all of us.

Hopefully as weather improves we will see numbers increase.

Val McKay

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

The prophet who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes said that for everything there is a time and for everything there is a season. I find it hard to believe that the season I'm about to enter into is a season of retirement, and that nearly seven years have passed since Jackie and I first moved to Cupar. Nobody knew that, not long after our arrival, Covid-19 would descend upon us and life, especially church life, would become very different. But by the grace of God, we at St John's & Dairsie United Parish Church, along with other churches across the land, developed new ways of communicating and being church.



I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to you all for taking me into your hearts and allowing me to be your minister, it has indeed been a privilege.

As I move into retirement I'm all too aware that the churches in our area and across Scotland are living through times of great change. So let me remind you of some eternal truths that we find in Scripture. In Psalm 139, the writer reminds us that God is constantly searching us; there is nowhere we can escape from God. In fact, God is always there ready to offer love. In the New Testament, on one occasion that reckless disciple of Jesus, who was given the name Peter, steps out of a boat into the raging water because Jesus asks him to, and the miracle is that he, Peter the man, walks on the water. So, as I leave you, I pray for you to stay strong in faith, trusting in the God who knows us inside out and asks us to do remarkable things. In the book of Hebrews, we hear these words from the Lord:

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you...

So be it. Thanks be To God.

On behalf of Jackie and myself, once again we thank you and wish you God's blessing in all that lies ahead.

**Your Minister and Friend
Gavin W Black**

New Beginnings

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

From coming to St John's & Dairsie for the first time in 2020 at the age of 13, just entering my teens, to now being 19, in the last year of my teens, so much has changed and God has taken me on an amazing journey. I always knew that God had good plans for me, but now I truly know how great these plans are!

The last two years I have been working in Cardenden doing a modern apprenticeship in youth work. I completed my qualification in August and knew that due to lack of funding I would need to look for a new job as my contract runs out in June. God has been so kind to me these last few months when looking for and applying for jobs and He has just made everything line up perfectly.

By the time you read this I will have started a new job as Youth Outreach Officer with Erskine Parish Church through in Renfrewshire. This is just outside of Glasgow, so it means I have moved out! I managed to get a flat in time for starting the job which is such a blessing as I only had 4 weeks to find one! I can't wait to make my flat feel like home.

Within my new job I will be working with the young people already at the church and supporting them in their faith journeys. The local high school is a two-minute walk from the church, so this will be great for building connections and encouraging young people to explore church and faith. There are currently no youth groups running, so it will be part of my role to start youth groups and activities and create a safe, welcoming and fun place for young people to learn about Jesus. I am so excited about this!

I am hoping to start a monthly prayer newsletter where I can share updates about what God is doing and share prayer points as well. Prayer is so important and this is an amazing way you can support me as I move to this new role. If you would like to receive this, please drop me an email at rebekahlennon@outlook.com and I can add you onto my mailing list!

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone at St John's and Dairsie for being so kind and welcoming to me! Thank you for all the encouragement, support and prayers. I will miss everyone, but I am so excited about this new chapter God is writing for me.

Rebekah Lennon

Fellowship and Outreach:

Christian Aid Week 2026

10th-16th May

“Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone?”

Matthew 7:9



Christian Aid Week this year focuses on supporting the community in Dagoretti, Nairobi.

Fridah rents a corrugated metal shelter to make a home for her two teenage sons, her daughter and her four-year-old grandson. They have no running water and share a toilet with the neighbours. Determined to protect her family from malnutrition, Fridah joined a project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope. It provides farming equipment and trains participants in planting and ways of growing without soil. She has managed to create a lush plant-packed urban farm at the end of a concrete alley.

We can help to support this community through our contributions this year. As usual, there will be envelopes in Church or you can donate online.

Please don't take your books and jigsaws to charity shops for the next couple of months. Save them up for the sale in the Sanctuary from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th May, 10 am-3 pm each day. And look and listen for other ideas to fundraise during the week.

Let's make a great effort to show God's love in our service to others.

*With all best thoughts,
Your Fellowship and Outreach Team*

Tea Dances

As numbers have not increased, tea dances will finish at the end of this term which is 27th May.

The dances have been running for approximately 10 years. They were very busy until Covid put a stop to so many things. Many people didn't want to mix for a while and also some are sadly no longer with us. Younger people are more inclined towards Ceilidh dancing too which is also great fun. I wish I had the 'puff'!

Val McKay

Busy Hands—Future Plans

It has been decided that this will be our final year in existence.



We have sufficient hats, scarves and gloves in stock to fill the Shoe Boxes in the autumn of this year. We have been grateful in the past for donations from knitters outwith our group, but I now have to ask you NOT to send any more. (Blythswood will not accept any knitted goods other than those requested - so no children's jumpers, etc.).

Our members will continue to meet on Thursdays (1 pm-3 pm) to knit for the Seafarers' charity, until we close at the end of November.

We have made these plans due to the proposed closure of St Johns's and we need time to clear out our cupboards!

After November we will make individual choices about joining similar groups in the town. We would prefer to go to a group which already embraces charity projects. We want to continue meeting up and enjoying a cup of tea.

Joyce MacRae

Friendship Circle

A few years ago, when the Dairsie Church Guild closed, we started something new in the church hall on Monday afternoons, a group we called the Friendship Circle. Then the church in Dairsie closed, but we were keen to continue with a gathering in the village, so we 'moved along' to the Memorial Hall. Now we meet there on the second Monday of every month at 2 pm, when we enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits – and time together. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't live in the village, there is parking opposite the hall (beside the primary school) and the bus stop is right at the door!



Willa and Rhona

Drop-in at St John's

The group celebrated its 30th birthday at the Christmas Party and as well as Santa giving out gifts, the Group was also able to recognise the 30 years of dedicated service of two of our original members.

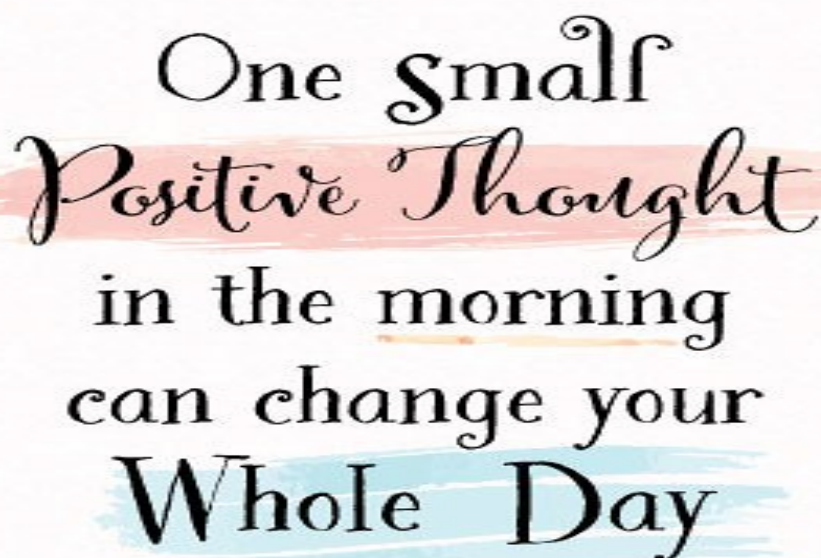
In January, we held our Annual General Meeting and we are fortunate that all the office bearers and committee members showed their willingness to serve for another year. This certainly makes the Secretary's job a lot easier!

We continue to have about 25 members at each of our meetings with possibly some new members coming in the near future. As the weather improves the number attending increases, and this gives the organising team a sense of satisfaction that the need for the group is still relevant.

If you are caring for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia, we would be very happy if you would join us. We serve a light lunch of homemade soup and a bacon or filled roll with tea or coffee plus a good selection of biscuits. The chat time with fellow carers is an opportunity for folks to catch up, learn useful tips in the job of caring, and the raffle held at the end of each meeting is always eagerly supported. The group is open to all residents of North-East Fife and you would be assured of a very warm welcome. Meetings are held on the last Friday of the month in St John's Church Hall from 11.30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

For further details you can contact Anna or Bob on 01334 650326.

Carolyn Moorefield, Secretary



One small
Positive Thought
in the morning
can change your
Whole Day

Rev Dr Gordon Jenkins

Some of you will remember that Gordon was locum minister at St John's & Dairsie before the arrival of Jan Steyn. He was, in fact, the minister who welcomed my wife, Tricia, and me to St John's when we arrived in Cupar in 2010, so it was with sadness that I read in the Fife Presbytery News of his death at the age of 85 on 26th January.

During his short time at St John's he was instrumental in starting Tricia and me on a journey of spiritual renewal, which ultimately led to her baptism (*below*) and, later still, to me becoming an elder. It was during those first years of living in Cupar that I was diagnosed with bowel cancer and was admitted to Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline for an operation. Gordon stepped in and gave Tricia a regular lift to the hospital so that she could visit me, whilst he himself took the opportunity to visit some of the many friends he had made in Dunfermline during his long ministry there. It was as a direct result of the conversations they had in the car that Tricia was led to seek baptism.

Later, when cancer had got the better of Tricia, he returned to St John's and led us in prayer at the thanksgiving service for her life.

Michael Hammond



Reason To Feel Glad

*We have much reason to feel glad
As Easter approaches each year;
Thanks to Jesus, our Savior so grand,
Our glory of redemption is here.*

*His dying on the cross
and His great grace saves us,
Forgives our sins of the past;
Amidst all fear and uncertainty
He gives us hope at last.*

*It's Easter that brings
joy, peace and bliss;
A reminder of how life
can truly go on.*

Catherine Pulsifer

Useful Contacts

Minister:	Rev Gavin W Black 01334 209010 07870 486030 gblack@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk:	Rhona Ferguson
Presbytery Elder:	Val McKay
Organist:	
Finance Convenor:	Craig Stockton
Property Convenor:	David Sinclair
Safeguarding Coordinator:	Andrew Kennedy
Hall Letting Convenors:	
Health & Safety:	Margaret Kennedy
Roll Keeper:	Craig Stockton
Fellowship & Outreach:	Aileen Kennedy & Isabel Morrison
Refreshment Team:	Mari Black
Busy Hands:	Joyce MacRae
Flowers:	Olivia Fraser
Tea Dances:	Val McKay
Drop In at St John's:	Anna & Bob Farmer
Contact email:	StJohnsandDairsie@outlook.com

Worship Times

Sunday Worship
St John's
10.30am

*Tea/Coffee in hall
after each service*

Midweek Worship

St John's
Church Hall - 9.30am

*Faith &
Fellowship*

Reflective Service

Monthly 7.30pm
*Thoughtful, Prayerful
Reflections*



**www.cuparstjohns
anddairsie.org**



**St Johns and
Dairsie United
Parish Church**



**St John's and
Dairsie**