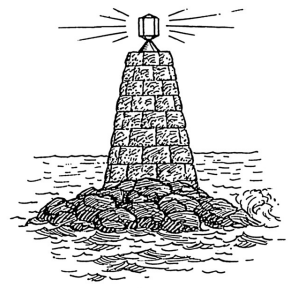
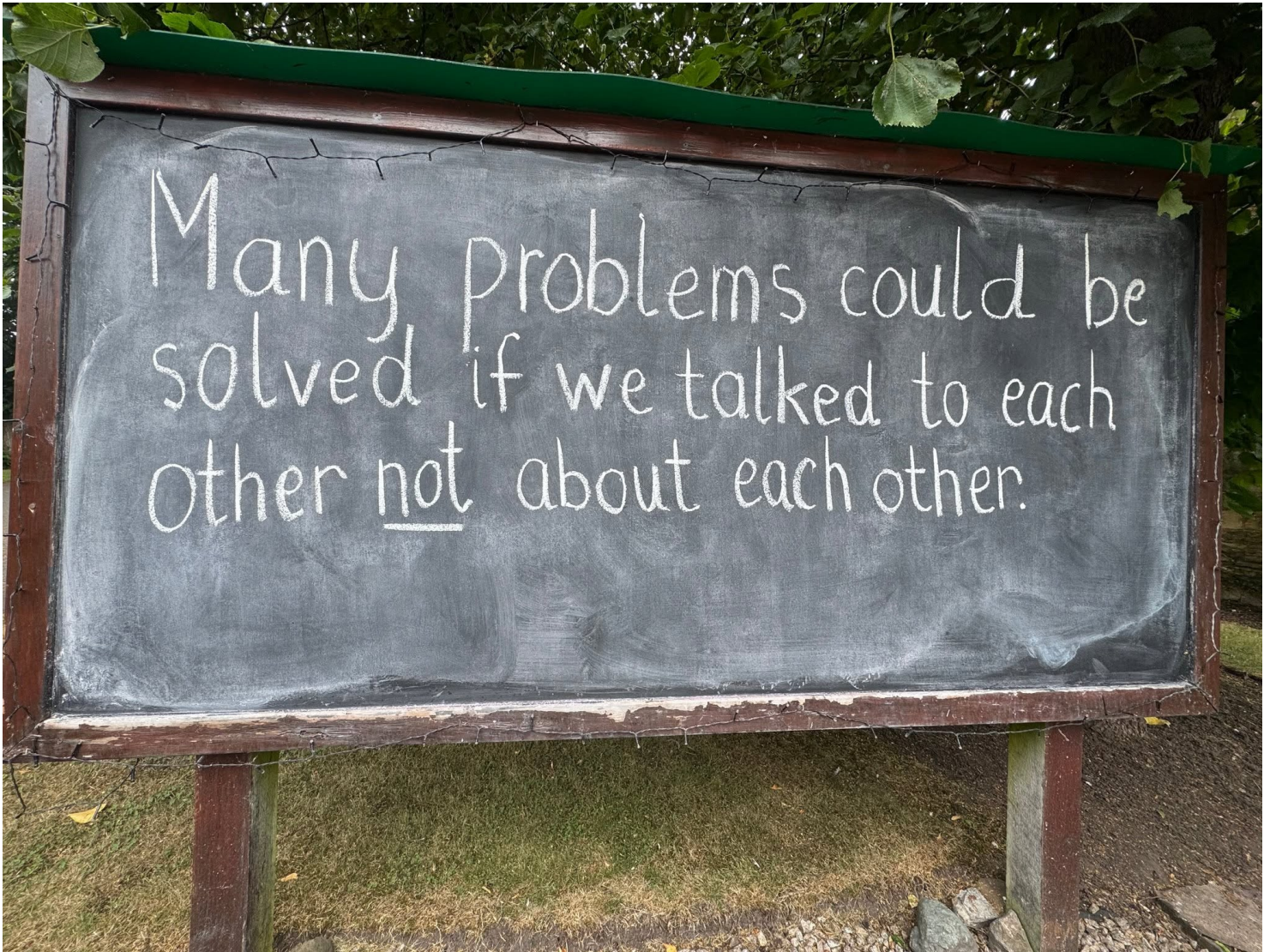


The Beacon



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

SUMMER
EDITION
2026



*"The grass withers, and the flowers will fall,
but the word of our God stands forever."*

– Isaiah 40:8

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
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>

Warm Space

Warm Space continues with soups, toasties, sandwiches, home baking, crisps and fruit. All served from 10.30 every Wednesday until 1.30.

Some days are quite quiet and other days we are really busy. I think some days are too hot for people to be out at the moment.

If there is anybody who would like to volunteer on a rota system please get in touch.

Val McKay



Greetings from Sarah

Dear Friends,

God is always at work among us, even—perhaps especially—in seasons of change, calling us forward and equipping us for what lies ahead.

We have only recently said farewell to Gavin after seven years of ministry here. He'll be missed, and I join you in wishing him and Jackie every happiness in retirement. Change is rarely easy, even when it's hoped for and prepared for.

Many of you already know me. I completed my first probation here in 2021 and was ordained as a local minister. I return to begin a fifteen-month probationary placement with you, having been accepted for training towards full-time ministry of Word and Sacrament.

I've lived in Cupar for nine years — this is my home, and I'm glad to be back among you. You'll likely see me around the town, too, and you may well bump into me in a coffee shop. I hope those will be moments to say hello, and in time, to chat.

This is a season of transition, with the deferred union bringing decisions that will shape our shared future. I want to guide and support you through this with worship and pastoral care that nourishes. My hope is that we can trust God's leading and be brave, imaginative and kind to one another.

"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

*With warm greetings,
Sarah*



From the Session Clerk

Gavin preached his last service with us on a sunny summer morning in June. It was a beautiful day of worship and fellowship. Gavin and Jackie are now settling into life in East Kilbride and enjoying being closer to family. We wish them every blessing.

As we enter a new season in our church life, we are very fortunate to be welcoming back Rev Dr Sarah Whittle. She will guide us through the next steps as we work towards union with Cupar Old and Monimail, and as we prepare to call a minister to the new united charge.

Even as we face these changes, the Kirk Session is also dealing with an urgent building issue. The Jubilee Room has given cause for concern for some time, and the cracking in the two outside walls has been getting progressively worse, to the point where the decision has been made to take it down. Clearly, this is not good news. However, the Jubilee Room was a later addition to the church, and the movement here has not in any way affected the rest of the building, which remains sound. An application to demolish the room has been lodged with Fife Council and it is hoped we can progress this quickly.

Despite this, I do believe we are in a season of building.

On Sunday mornings we sometimes sing the hymn *Let us build a house where love can dwell*.



Few of us are stonemasons, joiners or roofers, but we are all builders. As we work with our neighbours in the other congregations towards the union, we build relationships; we build an environment of true welcome - a safe place for all to be heard; we build up each other in faith and we build a culture of outreach beyond the wood and stone.

*Best wishes
Rhona Ferguson*

Fellowship and Outreach Team

Christian Aid Week

Thanks to everyone who supported this year's appeal so generously. Together we raised £1,597.88 to help the project in Nairobi that allows women to feed their families and gain independence. With the additional Gift Aid pledges the total is just over £1,700. This is a fabulous amount.

The book and jigsaw sale alone raised almost £1,200 and it was wonderful to see so many visitors coming into the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to set everything up, clear away afterwards and offer hospitality and a warm welcome to St John's & Dairsie. Below is a photo of the volunteers at the end of such a successful few days.



The Fellowship and Outreach team, with additional volunteers, was also pleased that the tea provided to wish Gavin and Jackie a happy retirement was so well attended and was such a wonderful send-off. Everyone seated at the tables seemed to enjoy the food and fellowship and those of us in the kitchen enjoyed the banter, teamwork and fun.

We were able to provide such a lovely spread from the funds paid by you all each week as we share fellowship over a cuppa after the service. Special thanks to Margaret for topping the occasion with an amazing retirement cake.

We look forward to our next ventures and will keep you posted.

Best thoughts, Your Fellowship and Outreach Team

Midweek Worship

The midweek worship service continues every Wednesday morning in the hall at St John's. It's a time for informal worship and fellowship. The service starts at around 9.30 am and lasts around 30 minutes, with tea and coffee available before, during and after worship.

There is a rota of people who lead worship, including members and friends of the congregation, so the service doesn't follow any set pattern, though typically there are prayers, two or three hymns, a Bible reading and a reflection or a story. It is always very relaxed and friendly.

It would be lovely to see new faces there, and for anyone who hasn't been in church for a while, be assured you will be made very welcome.



Family Fun Day

23rd August, 1- 4 pm in Riverside Park, Glenrothes

Fife Presbytery's Ecumenical Task Group has organised an afternoon of children's crafts and activities and creative prayer. The Pilgrim Pastor is also leading a family walk to the labyrinth. Everyone is welcome.



The Maze

If we have no faith to guide us, life will be a maze-
A labyrinth of twisting paths, a web of crisscross ways-
That will never really get us where we want to be -
Each turn leads to disappointment and futility.

In and out and round about we wander aimlessly -
Never knowing what we want, yet trying hard to see -
Some way out, some opening that promises to lead -
To the happiness we're seeking, and the peace we need.

God alone can give us this, and faith must be the guide.
Faith can break out of the maze into the light outside...
Faith will give our wayward thoughts a goal to keep in view -
And set our stumbling feet upon a path that's straight
and true.

Patience Strong



Useful Contacts

Interim Moderator

& Probationary Minister: Rev Dr Sarah Whittle

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

Drop In at St John's: Anna & Bob Farmer

Contact email:

StJohnsandDairsie@outlook.com

Worship Times

Sunday Worship

St John's 10.30 am

*Tea/Coffee in hall
after each service*

Midweek Worship

St John's
Church Hall - 9.30 am

*Faith &
Fellowship*



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