

# Summer Greetings

To Communicants and Friends of Tay and Lyon Churches

July 2022

## The Church of Scotland: Changing Future

### *Response from Kirk Session to Presbytery*

On 1 January 2023, our parish will become part of the Presbytery of Perth. Recently, the Kirk Session met to discuss the Consultation papers that had been circulated by the Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle Reappraisal Committee. This committee was interested in the makeup of our community, what buildings our church had, our working together with other Christian groups within our community, our links with other congregations in the parish and lastly how our congregation planned to address the **Five Marks of Mission (see page 2)**. We also commented on the suggested linkages of congregations within our current presbytery area. Our responses have been forwarded to the Presbytery Clerk. This article is a summary of our report.

You might be interested to know that our parish of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore & Lawers (FGK & L) borders no fewer than 10 other parishes and 4 presbyteries! From the 2011 Census and Small Area Population Statistics from 2020, the numbers of people living within the parish was noted as 850, and that the elderly or very elderly population was increasing whereas there has been an ongoing reduction in young families, children of school age and young adults. The reduction in young families

in the parish may, in part, be explained by the fact that nearly 40% of the local housing stock is either a holiday let or a second home.

We made an honest appraisal of each of our church buildings and the manse. We mentioned the continuing attempts to eradicate the dry rot in Kenmore Church and commented on the exterior painting at Fortingall Church and the internal repainting in Glenlyon Church.

Since there are no other congregations within our parish, we have not had the opportunity to work in this way but commented that we would welcome any opportunities that the new parish boundaries may offer the congregation to work with others to promote the life and mission of the church in the parish.

We have developed links with other congregations in other ways. The You Tube services during the Covid 19 pandemic were a case in point when we joined with the other churches in the Upper Tay Valley. The congregation participates in the Annual World Day of Prayer, hosting the service in rotation with other congregations, including the local Scottish Episcopal Church from one of the nearby parishes. Our congregation supports a Church of Scotland Guild where the meetings are open to

non-members and frequently have visitors from other congregations who do not have an active Guild.

**The Five Marks of Mission:**

1. **To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom** – very much the emphasis of our weekly worship on Sundays. Our churches are popular venues for weddings. Making our premises available for weddings and funerals is seen as part of our mission to the people of the parish – residents and visitors.
2. **To teach, baptise and nurture new believers** – this presents a challenge given the demographics of our community, but there is outreach to the local schools.
3. **To respond to human need by loving service** – our small congregation has a history of generosity to charitable causes – almost £2000 has been raised in the past 6 months; regular collections for the Perth Foodbank; Outreach activities of Church Newsletter and home visits when permitted.
4. **To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation** – the National Guild projects, which the

local Guild supports, seek to improve the lives of people both in the UK and overseas. Also, the congregation supported, prayerfully and financially, a member of our congregation who went to the Ukraine/Poland border to provide hot food to refugees.

5. **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth** – the congregation has adopted a plastic-free environment at the post-service fellowship time, as well as using Fairtrade products. At Kenmore Church, the congregation has created a small garden and planted bulbs which bloom in the spring.

In general, the Kirk Session welcomed the possible allocations of congregations, placing FGK&L along with neighbouring parishes, mirroring the links that the local Medical Practice supports. We also supported the appointment of a minister to this extended parish, one of the two anticipated to be allocated to our current presbytery area. We did feel that it was important for the local community to be able to identify with their local church and a specific minister.

*Summary by Elaine Melrose*

**CHURCH SERVICES JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022**

Date	Fortingall	Kenmore	Preacher	Notes
17 July	11.00	-	Robert Nicol	Kinross Boys' & Girls Brigades
24 July	-	11.00	Robert Nicol	
31 July	11.00	-	Robert Nicol	
7 August	-	11.00	Karl Weidner	
14 August	11.00	-	Robert Nicol	
21 August	-	11.00	Robert Nicol	
28 August	11.00	-	Robert Nicol	
4 September	-	11.00	Robert Nicol	
11 September	11.00	-	Worship Team	RN away Guild Service
18 September	-	11.00	Karl Weidner	RN away
25 September	11.00	-	Geoff Davis	RN away
2 October		11.00	Geoff Davis	RN away

## Some Musings from Sandra, your Outreach Elder

In the last few months a great deal has been written about the future of the Church of Scotland but not much has been written about the future that lies ahead for local congregations!

We have been rather reluctant to think about what the future may bring but church sessions throughout Scotland have been instructed to do just that, with a deadline for submissions of these deliberations by the end of June. A summary of our Kirk Session's response is included in this newsletter.

Why have we been reluctant to think about our church future? Is it because we just don't like change? Is it because the question poses too many further questions and difficulties for which we have no answer?

I wonder if this reluctance is partly because of the spiritual significance that we attach to our buildings. When we speak of "Church" are we referring

to our buildings rather than our church family? How we all struggle with change but for our future I feel we need to think of the "church" as beyond the buildings and denominations and grow new relationships beyond our church walls. We have already started to do this, by joining up with other churches and groups at times.

The new Presbytery Plan asks us to share and re-shape a new local church community. We are being invited to reach out across all denominations engaging with God and his work in his world, speaking to the lives of our neighbours, our friends and our family members, removing any demarcations - being truly a church without walls.

A lot to think about! Any ideas about how we can move forward? What do you think?

I hope this finds you all well. Take care!

My very best wishes, Sandra (01887 830316)

## Nettie Lacey (1946-2022)

It was with considerable sadness that we bade farewell to Nettie at a very moving service on 27<sup>th</sup> May in Fortingall Kirk which she loved and served so well. The church was full with her family and friends from all of our congregations as well as Amulree which was also dear to her. Nettie, who held ministers in very high regard, would have been very proud that no fewer than four of them participated in the service to commemorate her life: the Reverends Anne Brennan, Robert Nicol, Matthew Robertson and Fraser Penny – not to mention a few session clerks for good measure.

We gave thanks for Nettie's remarkable gift for music through which she best expressed herself, for the joy it gave her and which she shared with us for forty years. We remembered Nettie's personal qualities and the little eccentricities which endeared her to us and made her such a distinctive character. We recalled Nettie's special affection for her dog, Tillie, and her fervent devotion to Glasgow Rangers Football Club.



Nettie enjoyed any Kirk function which included tea, sandwiches and cakes for which (we learned from Anne Brennan) the correct ecclesiastical term is a 'purvey'. How Nettie would have approved the wonderful spread laid on by Morag Tulloch in Molteno Hall following the service!

Nettie loved a good tune and favoured the old hymns but also had her own favourites such as 'Edelweiss' which regularly appeared in her musical introduction to a service or during uptake of the offering. The Loch Tay Boat Song was another which we came to associate with funeral services in Fortingall: as a delightful personal touch, Elaine Melrose slipped it into Nettie's funeral service.

We shall miss Nettie Lacey but will remember her with gratitude and affection as a true original whose like we shall not see again.

**Tribute by Gordon Stark**