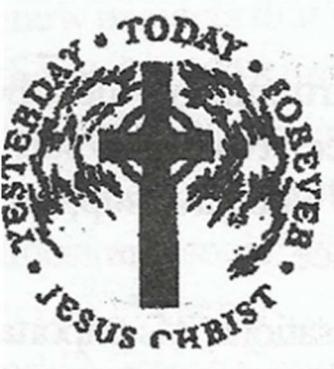


CONTACT



No 503

The Parish
Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE
CHURCH



July/Aug 2021

From the Minister's Desk

“Jesus said, ‘On this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it’.”

Matthew 16:18

Dear Friends,

Last month the General Assembly was held online again (following the truncated online Assembly last October). One of the major agreements was the Presbytery Mission Plan Act which will reshape congregations and buildings at a very fast pace over the next year or two. This is in part a response to the shortage of Ministers accelerating with around a third reaching normal retirement age in the next four years, and in part a response to major strains on the Church's finances.

This will mean most congregations having to share their Ministers in fresh ways with other congregations, and with hard decisions to make about choices of buildings as well. It is likely to mean discussions about partnerships with other congregations in Carnoustie, Monifieth and the landward area.

As Covid restrictions continue to change, though still with much uncertainty, the Kirk Session has continued to work hard to adapt our Church practice. We have recently been able to resume congregational singing – though still with masks on.

Over the past year we have seen the development of internet services from the Manse. These are likely to continue in some form into the future, although a significant grant from the Adapt and Thrive fund will also enable the Kirk Session to purchase routers, cameras and other equipment to allow regular streaming of the services in Carnoustie Church.

Now that the summer is here there are signs of hope: the sporting world has seen major events with the Euros for football and Wimbledon for Tennis, with some great excitement for the home nations. Yet there are still concerns with rising numbers of infections, though thankfully much smaller rates for hospitalisations and deaths from Covid.

So much remains uncertain and unclear. Reflecting on the destruction on a mouse nest turned over by his plough, Burns wrote: “*But, Och! I backward cast my e'e On prospects drear! An' forward, tho' I canna see, I guess an' fear!*” That sums up the feelings of many in our times.

These are times of challenge and change. Yet in all of this we place our confidence in the promises of an unchanging God. It is He who will guide us through these times towards the building of His Kingdom. Let us prayerfully seek His guidance, and rest in the assurance of His grace and peace to face all that lies ahead.

Yours in the Grace and Peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
Mike Goss

Prayer Focus

We offer these thoughts to add to your own prayers:

1. **Summer Services** – Give thanks for the partnership we enjoy between Barry and Carnoustie congregations as we share in worship over the summer weeks, and pray for wisdom as we seek the best patterns for our services in the future.

2. **Church Plans** – Pray for our Kirk Sessions as we embark on a new round of Presbytery Mission Planning and consider how best to build partnerships with other congregations for a sustainable future. Pray also for the project planning team as we move into the next stage, for both wisdom and for the financing that will be required.

3. **Israel/Palestine** – Pray for the Holy Land, with a new government in Israel and simmering tensions after the cease-fire over Gaza – seek the peace of Jerusalem.

Congregational Register

Funerals

“Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

2017 Dec	Mrs Eunice Greig	*
2020 July 17	Sandy McNicoll	*
April 17	John Martin	*
May 25	Iean Greig	*
June 23	Jean Shepherd	
July 2	Doris Brook	

Coming Up

Prayer Meetings Mondays **10 - 11 am** via Zoom link

Mon 28th June 7.30 pm Carnoustie Kirk Session

Tues 29th June 7 pm Barry Kirk Session

Wed 30th June 2 pm Midweek service in Philip Hall

Joint Summer Services

Sundays 4th, 11th, 18th July 10 am in Barry Parish Church

Sundays 25th July and 1st & 8th Aug 10 am in Carnoustie Church

Online services live or via link 11.15 am via Facebook Live

Mon 5 th – Thurs 29 th July	Minister's Holiday
Mon 9 th Aug 7.30 pm	Path of Renewal Team
Mon 16 th Aug 7.30 pm	Mission & Outreach Team
Mon 23 rd Aug 7.30 pm	Carnoustie Kirk Session
Tue 24 th Aug 7.30 pm	Church Life & Worship Team

Services in the Autumn

The Kirk Sessions of our two congregations met at the end of June to consider how to take services forward as Covid restrictions are expected to ease in the coming months.

It was agreed that services from 15th August to 10th October inclusive would be held at:

9.30 am	Barry Parish Church
10 am	Carnoustie Church
11.15 am	Online service via Facebook Live
7 pm	Online Prayers and Reflections via Facebook Live

Further changes are anticipated after the October break, and we would like to hear from the congregations – what times of services would be best for you, and for the mission of the Church going forward, and what shape of Internet Services would help to augment that mission in the future.

Pannihatta Clinic

In 2008 Irene Hoar and Dougal Edwards accompanied Rev. M. Bicket on a trip to Bangladesh. We undertook a fairly long journey one day to the small village of Pannihatta. There is no road as such to access the village and so we went in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Whilst there we decided that we should try and do something for that beautiful place, and so we agreed that we should ask the congregations of Angus Presbytery to provide funding for a nurse. This is what we do each year and thankfully those villagers do now have a nurse available all year round.

Sandra Dow says that a ‘thank you message’ has recently been received from the Presbytery of Angus for the £208.75 we sent to them for the Nurse Clinic in Pannihatta, Bangladesh. This was made up of a retiring offering £127, claimed tax £31.75, augmented by the £50 from Kirk session.

The Presbytery are grateful and much encouraged by our contribution. Thanks to Sandra Dow, for reminding the editor of this item!

Guild Fellowship and study group

Our group recently completed a study of the letters in Revelation. It was an interesting and challenging series of studies with everyone learning something new. It made us look at ourselves and our relationships in our own church more closely and think about where we are going with our faith. There was also laughter and animated chat so a good time was had by all.

The new session is beginning on Thursday 5th August at 10.00am and we will again plan to meet every second Thursday. Restrictions being unpredictable, it is assumed we will still meet using Zoom but if it becomes possible to meet in person, we will try to do that somewhere so watch this space!!

Our new study is called “*The Jesus Paul knew*” and I for one am looking forward to finding out more. If anyone is interested in joining our small but very friendly group, please contact myself or Effie as soon as possible and details will be sent to you before each meeting.

Irene

Church building project

As I write this, the roof repairs in the vestry are well underway and plans are in motion for the repairs to the west aisle roof. There is still a shortfall in funds for these urgent roof repairs but applications have been submitted for potential grants. If anyone has any ideas about sources for grants for

these repairs, I will be happy to hear from you and of course all donations will still be gratefully received.

A lovely donation of £10,000 was received recently from the Leng Charitable Trust for the internal renovations boosting our funds substantially. Applications still continue to be submitted so prayers for successful outcomes will be welcome.

I am also looking for potential fund raising ideas. Restrictions have prevented many of the planned events taking place but as things start to open up again all ideas are welcome so please get in touch with myself or Pat Thornton.

As many of you will know by now, the sale of the Philip Hall has been approved so all cupboards and storage in the hall will have to be cleared out over the coming weeks. Now is the time to check that you have not left anything in the hall that you want back so please let me know as soon as possible so that access can be given to retrieve personal items.

Also, if you can help to empty shelves and pack up or dispose of goods stored in the hall, get in touch and work can begin clearing the hall as soon as possible.

Irene

The Guild

I can't believe how time is flying by and we have seen the longest day already! Please don't be like my husband, who, when that day is past, can be heard saying "Well the nights will be drawing in again!"

In May, we had a most interesting and touching talk from Christine Milne, who with her husband and children have devoted many years fostering children. What a sterling job they have done.

This month, we had the pleasure of inviting Gaynor Scott to enlighten us about this year's Theme, "Lights and Bushels". She delivered this with humour and an insight into her very strong faith.

This month, with the hope of good weather, our meeting will take the form of a walk along the waterfront culminating in coffee and cake at 'Madisons'. A date has not yet been set, as in the next couple of weeks I will keep a very close eye on the weather forecast and alert members to the best day for this activity.

Last week, John and I had a couple of days in Stirling and one afternoon were relaxing in the hotel bar when I spotted a group of ladies, nothing special in that but on the seat beside them was a Guild shopping bag! I had to have a chat with them. They hailed from Hamilton and have a Guild of similar size and ages to ours.

However, they have not met since the Pandemic took hold. They were interested to hear what we'd been up to and wished us well in the future. I did likewise as they are hoping to begin in-person meetings in October.

If you would like to be with us on our walk, please contact me and I can let you know the date. Meanwhile take care and continue to stay safe! God's blessings to one and all!

Pru

The Choir in Relaxed Mode!

On Thursday 1st July nine members of the choir, together with Pauline, Peter and Rhona our organists, met at the Wee Cook Kitchen at Barry Downs for a belated "end-of-term" lunch. It's become something of a tradition to go out together for an evening meal when the regular Thursday choir practices take their summer break, but this year Covid restrictions meant that we weren't able to follow the usual pattern and meet indoors.

However, the Wee Cook has a lovely outdoor covered area where we were able to form two parties at socially distanced adjacent tables and keep within the rules. The sun was shining and Mike and Rhona had arrived on their bikes! The food was delicious, the company was congenial, and a good time was enjoyed by all. We're looking forward to the time when we'll be able to sing together once again.

Peter

An American in Paradise?

That, as you are aware, is the title of a 1951 musical comedy film based on music by Gershwin. We of course have an American working with us in Barry and Carnoustie, Daniel Spencer. I'm not sure if Daniel would consider the town of Carnoustie to be paradise! It's a big change from the suburbs of Denver, Colorado, where he started out.

He moved to California, Malibu, to attend Pepperdine University. It was there that he and his wife Sara met, whilst both were doing a divinity module at Pepperdine. Both of them graduated in the spring of 2016 and moved to Dundee in August to begin an MLitt in Divinity at St Andrews. After completing the MLitt in 2017, Daniel stayed on to do his PhD - thesis to be submitted at the end of this month!

Daniel and Sara have two children, three-year old daughter Perpetua and one-year old son Valentine. Daniel says that his calling has been gradual, over six or seven years. When he became a Christian, he had a strong sense that God was indeed wanting him to go into ministry. This of course was backed up by encouragement from friends and stranger alike.

From the very beginning, the minister of his home church in Dundee encouraged Daniel to pursue Church of Scotland ministry, and this came to fruition in the summer of 2019 when 121 informed him that they could tailor his training around visa restrictions. He was formally accepted for training in May 2020, his first placement commencing in September at Newtyle/Glamis.

That placement ran from Sep. 2020 to April 2021, when he worked with Rev. Carleen Robertson. Prior to that Daniel did his discernment period at Downfield Mains in Dundee from October 2019 to February 2020. It is looking as though his probation period will be either at Downfield Mains or Menzieshill, with a start date November 2021.

Daniel isn't completely sure what he hopes to do in the future! "The correct answer," he says, "Is 'whatever work the Lord has for us'". In other words, he isn't sure if this will mean parish ministry for life, or perhaps it might be teaching or lecturing at a university, etc.

Daniel says that he has always been a sort of 'go with the flow' kind of person, so planning for the long-term has never been part of his psychological make-up. From what this editor has heard so far, Daniel will be a good parish minister, as he has so far busied himself with visiting care homes and the housebound.

Our prayer is that Daniel, Sara and their family will know God's blessing for their future, and that they will receive guidance from the Lord for their future lives, be it in this area, somewhere else in Scotland or back in America.

Dougal

Wisdom of a child

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "Maybe so, but they will in a minute!"

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