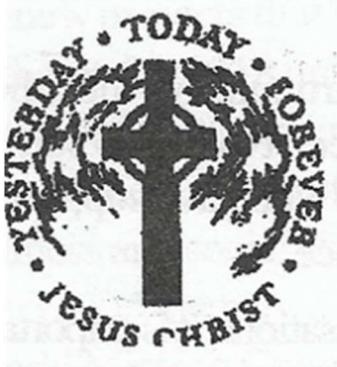
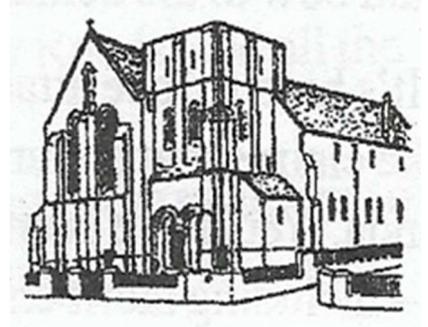


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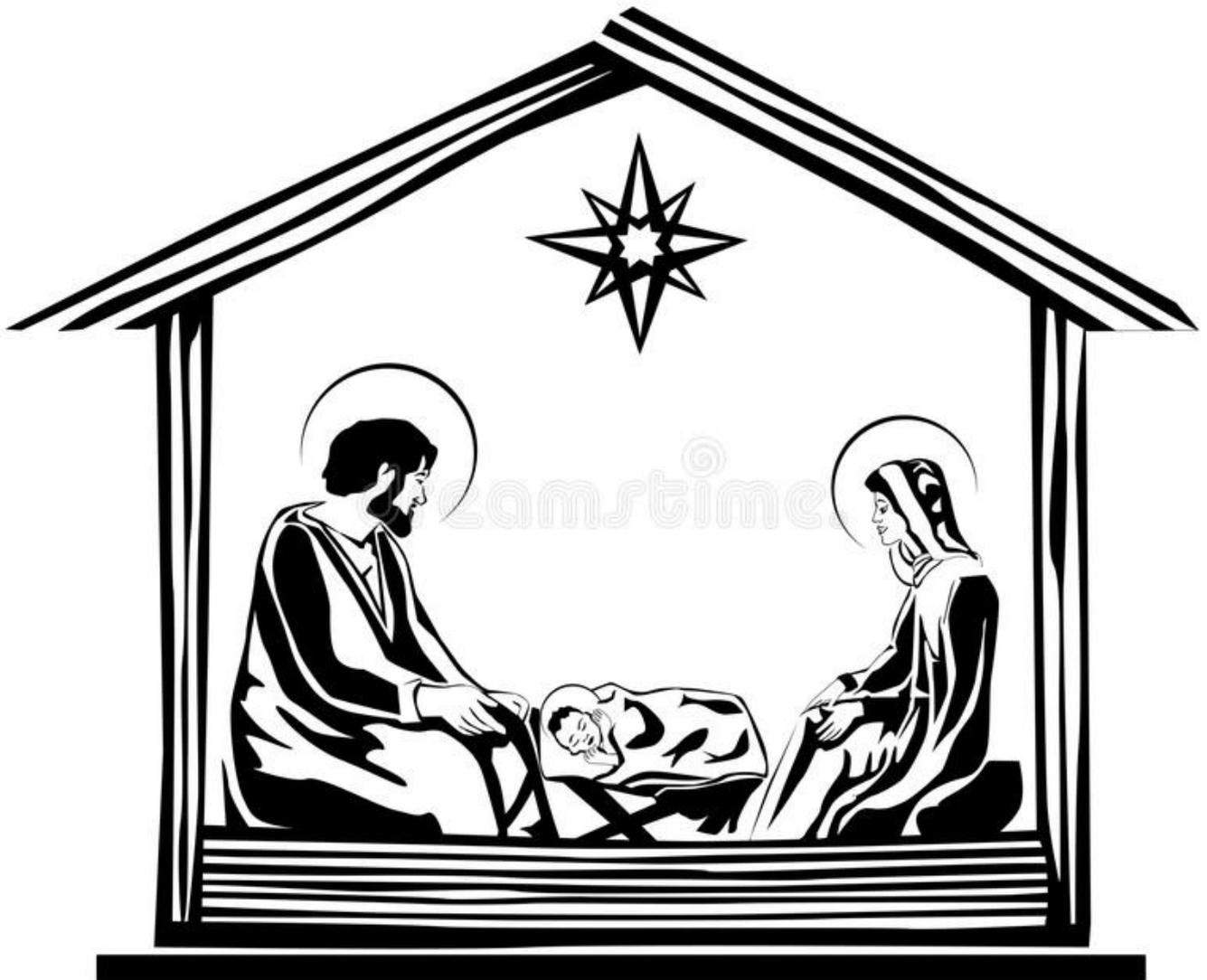


No 505

The Parish
Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE
CHURCH



Nov. Dec. Jan. 2021/22



From the Minister's Desk

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.”

Isaiah 9: 2,6

Dear Friends,

Following on from our consultation, the Kirk Sessions agreed to change our service times back to the standard times. So from the middle of October we resumed services at 9.30 am in Barry Parish Church and 11 am in Carnoustie, with online services initially being broadcast live from the Manse at 7 pm.

To be honest, I'm not sure where we'll go with the online services. During Advent and Christmas, we'll have various other events occurring during some evenings (see later in Contact for details). We may have some shorter reflective services put out in the afternoons, and we'll continue to experiment with the format.

One particular new service is planned for Sunday 5th December, when we will have a reflective service open to everyone but particularly for all those who have been bereaved in the last 18 months or so. It will provide opportunities for quiet prayer, some music and some readings. You may know someone who might like to come along – we expect folk from the community and from the congregation.

Carnoustie Church has been given relief of £6,000 from the Ministries & Missions contribution for 2022 in order to support the purchase of new cameras and other equipment to enable us to provide proper facilities for broadcasting services and other events on the web. This, together with other grants, will help us continue to adapt the support we provide to members at home, outreach to others in the community, and service to those who wish to use the Church for concerts and other events.

Meanwhile we are all muddling through the changing regulations and trying to keep each other safe, while ultimately trusting in the Lord for His guiding hand for what lies ahead. I continue to be hugely grateful for the continuing support of so many of our members through their giving and through various forms of service given to the Church.

And in this season, we are reminded that our Saviour came into the chaos of this world, in all its confusion and sorrows, to bring light and life to the nations. He came as a child; He will return as King, and there will be no more sorrow, or mourning, or pain, for the old order will have passed away.

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. Advent and Christmas Services** – Pray for the opportunities to share good cheer and the Good News with our community through the various services and events of the coming weeks.
- 2. Residential Homes and Home Carers** – Remember residents and staff at Braehill Lodge, Balhousie Willowbank & Brookfield, the Kinloch Care Centre, and providing care for people in their own homes; pray for their continued health and well-being in these times.
- 3. Afghanistan** – Pray for this desperately straitened country and its peoples with millions facing potential famine alongside the continuing struggle for peace there.

4. Congregational Register **Funerals**

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

Sep 20 **Allan MacLaren ***

Oct 26 **Mrs Grace Waddell**

Nov 1 **Mrs Sheila Milton ***

1 **Douglas Walker**

2 **Andrew Rendall ***

19 **David Paterson**

Allan MacLaren

We were sad to hear the news of the death of one of our Elders, Allan MacLaren, on the 8th of September, following his sudden collapse at home in his garden. Allan had been a faithful member of Carnoustie Kirk Session for almost 45 years, and a stalwart tenor in the choir as well.

The funeral service in Carnoustie Church on September 20th saw a very significant turnout as restrictions had begun to ease, and Allan’s friend and fellow-elder Ian Johnston gave a fulsome and genuine tribute to a real gentleman and great golfer.

Our prayers remain with Allan’s wife Jenny, his children Stewart, Debbie, Annie and Jake, with all their families and Allan’s many friends from Church and community.

Coming Up

Prayer Meetings Mondays **10 - 11 am** in Church or via Zoom link

Mon 15th Nov 7.30 pm Path of Renewal Team

Wed 17th Nov 2 pm Midweek service in Philip Hall

Mon 22nd Nov 7.30 pm Carnoustie Kirk Session

Tue 23rd Nov 7.30 pm Church Life & Worship Team

Sun 28th Nov 11 am Communion – Carnoustie

Sun 5th Dec 7 pm Bereavement Service: **Carnoustie Church**

Wed 8th Dec 10 am Worship Leaders in **Manse**

Mon 10th Jan 7 pm Barry Kirk Session

Mon 17th Jan 7.30 pm Mission & Outreach Team

Sun 23rd Jan 9.30 am **The Lord's Supper – Barry Parish Church**

Sun 23rd Jan 11 am **The Lord's Supper – Carnoustie Church**

Mon 24th Jan 7.30 pm Carnoustie Kirk Session

“Light in the Darkness”

For those of you with young grandchildren the Church of Scotland has an advent calendar online. Light in the Darkness is the theme of the Church of Scotland's 2021 Advent calendar, inspired by John 1:5 ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it’:

On Sunday 28 November things will get underway with an introductory video on C of Scot website from the Moderator, Lord Wallace, followed by daily offerings through the next four weeks. The first window in the calendar will open on Wednesday 1st December. They invite us to sign up for a daily email or visit the online Advent Calendar for some daily inspiration.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

Online Services – see Carnoustie Church Facebook page for details

Sunday 28th November – Advent Sunday

9.30 am **Barry Parish Church**

11 am **Carnoustie Church**

1 pm **Town Christmas Stalls** in Kinloch School area

5.30 pm **Town Christmas Tree Lights' switch on**

Sunday 5th December

9.30 am **Toy Gift Service – Barry Parish Church**

– bring a Christmas gift for **Angus Women's Aid**

11 am **Carnoustie Church**

7 pm **Bereavement Service – Carnoustie Church**

Sunday 12th December

9.30 am **Barry Parish Church**

11 am **Carnoustie Church**

Sunday 19th December - Family Nativity Services

9.30 am **Barry Parish Church**

11 am **Carnoustie Church**

- retiring offerings for **Carnoustie Community Helpline**

7 pm **Christmas Musicale** in Carnoustie Church

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

6.30 pm **Christingle Service**

- retiring Offering for **Barry Church Defibrillator**

11.30 pm **Watchnight Service** – Offering for **Scottish Bible Society**

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10.30 am Family Celebration – Joint service in **Carnoustie Church**

Sunday 26th December 2021

10.30 am Family Service – Joint service in **Barry Parish Church**

Sunday 2nd January 2022

10.30 am Family Service – Joint service in **Carnoustie Church**

Sunday 9th January 2022

9.30 am Services resume in **Barry Parish Church**

11 am Services resume in **Carnoustie Church**

The Guild

Despite restrictions being lifted a little, the Guild has not yet met in person. A very good reason for our October meeting to be on Zoom was that our speaker Bethan Spencer from our project, "Home for Good," lives in Exeter!!! Can you imagine the travelling expenses she would have needed?

What a wonderful insight into the work done by this charity, whose aim is to rehome children that may have suffered abuse, trauma, or loss in their lives. What a delightful lady Bethan is and so dedicated to her charity.

In November we had another quiz which we decided to have via Zoom. What fun we had, with questions on Maths., Literature, History and Miscellaneous things. The highlight for me, personally, was watching Allison when she got one section all correct, waving her arms in the air as if she had won a million pounds!!

The winner was Effie, with joint second, Christine and Jean. The "runner-up" was Margaret. Our next meeting is our Christmas lunch in the Station Hotel on December 15th. How wonderful to be able to meet there again for another delicious meal!

2022 begins with our Scottish night on January 26th which is in the planning stages at present. February 16th will bring something very different - an Afternoon Tea to be held in person in the home of one of our members. Full details will be shared in the new year.

Our Guild Dedication Service will be in Church on March 6th 2022, which will herald the start of our new session with a new project for us to support. Meantime, may I, on behalf of all our members, wish everyone reading this a very happy Christmas! Thank you all who have supported the Guild in the past year. Please pray for continued health and safety of all family and friends. God bless!

Pru Milne

Advertisements

As you are already aware, we do have a page for advertisements. Our treasurer, Audrey, reminds readers of 'Contact' that if they, or anyone they know, wish to place an ad in the magazine to please contact Audrey or Dougal.

Many thanks

Calendars

Sandra Dow is once again the "person to go to" for your Crossreach calendar. She does apologise that it seems early in the year to be thinking of such a thing. Nevertheless, the autumn is upon us already, so if you want a 2022 calendar, don't delay in speaking to Sandra!

News of CrossReach

This is a big **thank you** to everyone who ordered Christmas cards and calendars from the CrossReach catalogue. Together with Barry Church we'd orders worth £451.70 this year-our best yet!

Despite having the order in before the end of October, two of the cards were already sold out, but everyone else is getting what they want.

We hope this is an effective boost to the marvellous work done in each of CrossReach services. Please continue to pray and to give thanks for the staff at CrossReach and all those that take part in the services they give.

My thanks too, to all who sent messages and offers of help while I was ill. I'm now much stronger and doing things again. I remain grateful to you all.

Sandra Dow

Church building project

As you will be aware by now, the work on the Vestry/crèche room has been completed and the new skylight window in the toilet looks so much better than the old rusty one. However, there is still a delay on work beginning to repair the West Aisle roof and high guttering.

The existing slates are very small and this is the reason there has been so much ingress of water over the years. The builder is hoping to replace them with slightly larger ones but the council has to give permission as to the type and style of slate before work can begin. This has taken much longer than was anticipated and according to our latest update it might be several more weeks before a decision is reached.

We have asked the architect to look again at the internal work with emphasis on heating, flooring, kitchen and toilets as well as removal of the pews to see where potential savings can be made on the original plans. This is now well underway and it is hoped to be able to begin the internal work early in 2022.

The proposed sale of the Philip Hall should go ahead by the end of this year, we are waiting for Planning permission in Principle from the council then the General Trustees will take over the sale of the property. It has been a long journey but with your continued support and lots of prayer, hopefully we will see a greatly improved warmer church building soon.

Irene Hoar

Comfort and Warmth

As the winter season sets in and the wind starts to bring colder air from the north, the draughts in the church seem to be a bit more pronounced especially as the doors still have to be left open. With this in mind, if you feel you would like to bring a blanket or similar to wrap round your legs or shoulders, please feel free to do so.

Unfortunately, they cannot be left in the pews but if you want to put it in a bag with your name on it and leave it at the back of the church from week to week that would be fine. I know I am missing a cushion on the pew and I am sure many of you feel the same so again if you want to bring a cushion to sit on and leave it in a named bag at the back of the church that will be perfectly acceptable.

I hope these ideas will be useful and maybe encourage those who were worried about being cold or uncomfortable when attending services, will feel more inclined to come along for worship with your church family again. I look forward to seeing brightly coloured blankets and cushions brightening up our services soon.

Irene

Looking ahead to Easter & Communion

Children served the bread for the first time during communion at Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church. Young people were also able to receive bread and wine during the service. One congregation member said, “The service wasn't perfect, it was busy, special and different. An eleven-year-old boy – who I have known since he was a toddler – gave me a piece of bread, and it was a very powerful moment for me.”

Helensburgh Parish Church involved all ages in looking at the different crosses in church and homes, throughout Lent. Children decorated the Easter cross with flowers and a message of ‘He is Risen’. The children then served the bread as part of the communion service.

Children at St. David's High Kirk in Dundee created the Easter Story out of plasticine.

Is this a creative way, part of a bigger plan, to encourage children back into church? I'm not sure if this would work for us, but you never know until you try!

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A Prayer for remembrance – next year! (from Church of Scotland) Just a wee bit too late for this year!

Living God,
Our refuge and our strength,
Hear our cry in time of remembrance.
Hear our cry as memory, and stories told,
Carry us to places of loss and sorrow.
Meet us in this time,
To still the storm and calm our fears.
Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Our refuge and our strength,
Hear our cry in time of loss.
Hear our cry, though it seems long lost,
In the cruel winds that blow.
May the measure of our loss
Be the measure of Your grace.
Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Our refuge and our strength,
Hear our cry in time of sorrow.
Hear our cry, and the cry of all who mourn,
As it gives voice to hidden grief.
May it rise from the depths of the earth
And be embraced in the heights of heaven.
Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Our refuge and our strength,
Hear our cry in time of remembrance.
Hear our cry,
And still our hearts,
That we may we hear the voice that speaks:
Be still, and know that I am God.
Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Rev Michael S Goss,
44 Terrace Road,
Carnoustie, DD7 7AR.
Tel: 01241 410194 Mobile: 07787 141567
e-mail: MGoss@churchofscotland.org.uk
church website: <https://www.carnoustiechurch.org.uk>
(Find us on Facebook also)

SESSION CLERK
Mrs Irene Hoar 859405

DEPUTY SESSION CLERK
Mrs Prudence Milne 853911

TREASURER
Audrey Duncan 853721

ROLL KEEPER
Mrs Kirsten Reid 01382520519

PROPERTY CONVENER
Mrs Irene Hoar 859405

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR
Mrs Evelyn Baker 410832

YOUTH GROUP CO-ORDINATOR
(to be filled)

FLOWERS CONVENER
Mrs Sandra Penman 852204

GUILD SECRETARY
Mrs Prudence Milne 853911

CONTACT EDITOR
Dougal Edwards
852666 Mob 07758370617
e-mail: dougal.edwards@blueyonder.co.uk