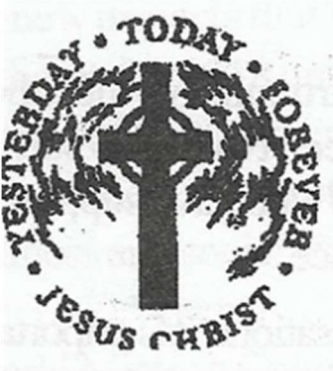


CONTACT



No 513

The Parish
Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE
CHURCH



July/August 2023

From the Minister's Desk

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Ephesians 3: 20-21

Dear Friends,

Another General Assembly has come and gone. This one has settled into the new hybrid pattern, with about one in four commissioners attending online while the rest gathered in the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. It seemed to me that those in the Hall were better able to engage in the debate, but even so it was a full programme with few opportunities for challenge.

A lot of concern was focussed on the Presbytery Mission Planning process, as across the country congregations were coming to terms with closing buildings and new partnerships with neighbouring congregations. A significant reminder was given of the need to include our ecumenical partners in planning for the mission of the church in our local communities.

In our own communities we are heading towards some of these changes ourselves, and there's more about the Union discussions further on in Contact. It makes for some uncertainty, as we wonder how all these things will work out. However, I have been encouraged with the way that our office-bearers have engaged with the process and discussions among all three of the congregations, and so I have high hopes for the way ahead.

In the meantime, the witness and life of our congregations continues. We are looking forward to the joint summer services in Barry and Carnoustie once more; Messy Church and Holiday Club are also planned for the summer months. In all of these things we place our trust and confidence in the living God – so we must pray faithfully for all that lies ahead, seeking His will and purpose, vision for the way forward, and confidence that He will provide all that is needful according to His riches in glory. 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. Kherson region

Pray for all affected by the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and the resulting flooding of homes and farmland, as we continue to pray for a just peace for Ukraine and its peoples.

2. Church of Scotland

Remember all those involved in seeking the transformation of the Kirk following the reforms agreed at this year's General Assembly.

3. Union Vote

Pray for the meetings of Office Bearers and Congregations as we prepare to vote on the proposed union of Barry, Carnoustie and Carnoustie: Panbride congregations at the end of August and start of September.

Congregational Register

Funerals

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

Mar 20th - Mrs Muriel Taylor

Apr 11th - Mrs Barbara Keir

May 26th - Mrs Elizabeth Fallows

May 30th - Alan Pollock

June 6th - Jennifer Petrie

Coming Up –

Prayer Meetings, Mondays 10 - 11am in the Manse

Mon 26th June - 10 am-12 noon - Carnoustie Coffee & Chat

Tues 27th June - 10 am, Woodlands end of term in Carnoustie

Sun 9th July - 2 pm, Messy Church (Panbride)

Mon 10th July - 7.30 pm, Carnoustie Kirk Session

Wed 12th July - 10 am, Carnoustie Union discussions

Thurs 13th July - 7.30 pm, Carnoustie Churches Youth Mission

Thurs 27th July - 2 pm, Barry Afternoon Teas

Wed 9th August - 7.30 pm, Church Life & Worship Team

Tues 15th August - 7 pm, Barry Kirk Session

Wed 16th August - 7.30 pm, Mission & Outreach Team

Thurs 31st August - 2 pm, Barry Afternoon Teas

Summer Joint Services

July 2nd 9th 16th - Barry Church at 10 am

July 23rd 30th & August 6th - Carnoustie Church at 10 am

Holiday Club – “*Diary of a Disciple*”

Tues 1st - Thurs 3rd August, in Carnoustie Baptist Church, 10 am – 12.15 pm

Union Discussions

(A letter from the Carnoustie Ministers)

Conversations between office-bearers of Barry, Carnoustie and Carnoustie, Panbride have continued for some months now, and the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry are being finalised. This will lead to a single Kirk Session to govern the Church throughout our communities, with regular Sunday worship in Carnoustie Church and Newton Church.

The future of Barry Church is yet to be determined, and worship will continue there in the meantime. A Team Ministry of two is planned – currently to be Rev Mike Goss and Rev Annette Gordon, so there will not be immediate significant changes to our worship.

The Office-bearers as a whole will be asked to vote on the Basis on:

*Monday 21st August: 7 pm – Barry and 7.30 pm - Carnoustie

*Wednesday 23rd August: 7.30 pm – Carnoustie Panbride

The congregations will have their say – members and adherents of all three congregations will be invited to vote on Sunday 3rd September after morning worship.

More details will be sent out to homes towards the end of July / start of August, so keep an eye out for these coming through your letterboxes. Proxy votes or other forms of remote voting are not currently permitted for these meetings in the Church of Scotland – you must be in attendance on the day in order to vote.

Rev. Annette Godon

CrossReach

Sandra had some news from CrossReach this week that she wants to pass on. She received a letter thanking us for spreading the news and for any fund-raising that we have undertaken. There was also correspondence about an interesting venture for 2023. If we raise any funds for CrossReach this year, we can keep 50p out of every £1 that we raise, and use it for our own church funds. I'm sure that would come in handy right now!

Sandra Dow

Blessings To All Friends Of The Aged

Blessed are they who make it known
I am loved, respected and not alone.
Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and my shaky hand.
Blessed who know that my ears today
Must strain to catch the things we say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
That my eyes are dim and thoughts are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away
When coffee was spilled on the table today.
Blessed are they, with a cheery smile,
Who stop and chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say,
“You told that story twice today”.
Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who know I’m at a loss
To find the strength to carry my cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey home, in loving ways.

(thanks to Kay Landsburgh)

Project Updates

The first offer we accepted for the Philip Hall fell through so the building had to be put back on to the market. There were more viewings with offers coming in fairly quickly. On the 5th June the Kirk Session agreed to accept one of the offers so everything is once more in the hands of the Law Department at the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. We continue to pray for a successful outcome this time.

The repairs to the West Aisle roof should begin shortly. There was a site meeting recently and the chosen firm plus health and safety officers are all ready to start the work.

There might be some time delays between scaffolding being erected and roofers and joiners coming on site but it all comes down to who is available and when. We are just thankful that, after so many delays, the roof will finally be watertight in time for winter.

The monthly coffee mornings are going well with noisy chat and lovely tea, coffee and eats being enjoyed regularly by many people. They will continue over the summer, planned to be held on following dates :-

Monday 26th June

Monday 31st July

Monday 28th August

So please come along, if you can, and join in the friendly fellowship.

Plans for the internal work continue along with various other fundraising events and grant applications so please support when you can, every donation counts.

Irene

Church cleaning teams

As always, the church continues to be cleaned every week by a small but diligent group of people taking turns on a rota system. Unfortunately, due to long and short-term illnesses, there are fewer volunteers at the moment. Euan Turner continues to be a great help doing the majority of vacuuming regularly and this has taken some of the burden from the others so huge thanks to Euan.

However, it would be a wonderful bonus if more volunteers came forward to help. It is not an onerous task and it does ensure that the church is kept in good order for Sunday services as well as the other events that take place in the building.

If you feel you could assist with this, please contact me in the first instance and I can go over the duties with you before teaming you up with one of the regular ladies.

Many thanks, Irene (01241 859405).

MAF

Hospitals across South Sudan are benefitting from a consistent supply of medical oxygen thanks to a partnership between MAF and Amref Health Africa. It takes a minimum of four strong people to load each pair of oxygen cylinders into MAF's plane. For the dispatchers, groaning under the weight of the 130kg load, it's worth the effort. Each of the huge white canisters will save multiple lives.

Medical oxygen is an essential part of supportive care for a wide range of acute physical conditions from pneumonia to childbirth complications. Without oxygen, it would be impossible to carry out operations or treat traumatic injuries sustained in road accidents. Without oxygen, the most fragile patients, including the young and the elderly, would quickly lose their lives.

Until recently, oxygen wasn't widely available in South Sudan. Hospitals outside Juba had little or no access to a regular supply of bottled oxygen. Instead, they relied on oxygen concentrators — machines which extract oxygen from the air and require a reliable electricity supply to function.

Because hospitals tend to use diesel generators and suffer frequent fuel shortages, when the fuel runs out, the oxygen stops. Lack of access to medical oxygen in countries like South Sudan was highlighted during COVID-19. At the beginning of the pandemic, South Sudan relied on imported oxygen. Supplies quickly dried up and oxygen-producing countries began to prioritise their own needs over the needs of other nations.

A new oxygen plant, capable of generating 2,500 litres of oxygen a day, was opened at Juba Teaching Hospital in September 2021. Amref Health was called in to help the country's Ministry of Health make the most of this new facility. With severe safety security challenges facing travellers in South Sudan, and only 400km of paved road, Amref contacted MAF to ensure the oxygen's safe transport.

Pilot Jonathan Pound made the first flight to Malakal in March this year. ‘The first time I dropped off the supply at Malakal, they told me it couldn’t have come at a better time. They had an outbreak of cholera and were desperate for oxygen to treat the patients.’

MAF has flown 56 cylinders to 8 locations since March, with more flights planned for the coming weeks. The impact, according to Peter, has been significant, with hospital staff saying that their services had really improved.

Please continue to pray for the continued work MAF does across many lands and all workers are kept safe.

Irene

Life of a Christian

- Love God.
- Love your neighbour as yourself.
- Forgive others who have wronged you.
- Love your enemies.
- Ask God for forgiveness of your sins.
- Jesus is the Messiah and was given the authority to forgive others.
- Repentance of sins is essential.
- Don’t be hypocritical.
- Don’t judge others.
- The Kingdom of God is near. It’s not the rich and powerful—but the weak and poor—who will inherit this kingdom.

A Day in the Life of a Pilot – a Trishaw Pilot!

You are very likely to have seen the trishaws from “Cycling Without Age” around the town over the past months. If you have been around the promenade area in the afternoons, you will hopefully have seen a trishaw and maybe had a chat with the pilot and passengers.

We very pleased to have one at our recent coffee Pop-up Pop-in, and they make an appearance at town events such as Remembrance Day and the Christmas lights switch-on.

I trained as a “pilot” last summer, and regularly take passengers out for a spin. Our route starts at the Kinloch Centre, heads past the Golf Hotel and along the promenade. On sunny days we might have a stop at Madisons for an ice-cream or a coffee, then we continue along to Westhaven, admiring the gardens on the way, taking between an hour and 90 minutes or so, depending on weather.

The trishaws do have a hood and cosy blanket, so even in less favourable weather we can get out, with passengers wrapped up warm. Although our route starts at the Kinloch Care Centre, our passengers come from a range of places, and I have met many lovely people and had lots of laughs.

We are very keen to have the trishaws used by more people from the community, as well as those in residential homes. If you are still active but miss being able to walk along the beach, why not consider a trip in the trishaw?

Or pass the word on to someone you know – maybe you could accompany a friend? If you would like to book a trip, morning or afternoon, or to find out more information, contact Lorraine Young on 07876 743666.

Rhona Goss

Carnoustie Church putting competition

The FUN Group are arranging another putting competition for 18 August 2023 commencing at 5.30pm at Carnoustie putting green, to be followed by a BBQ and delicious desserts, tea & coffee in the manse garden.

Friends from Barry and Panbride churches are being invited to join us for this event. Please note a major change from our previous putting competitions. No, we haven't become a PGA event!

Whilst Mike & Rhona will still be kindly providing the delicious desserts, tea and coffee in the garden, this time the price will include the burgers, with any profits from this 'get to know you event' going towards Carnoustie Church Project.

You may bring additional refreshments yourself if you wish such as beer or wine. As the putting green staff may have insufficient putters for everyone, please bring your own putter if you can. Teams of up to four can enter and individual participants will be grouped into similar sized teams, so there's a place for everyone and all will be made welcome.

You can pick and mix your evening as you wish so, to assist with catering, please complete the enclosed booking slip (not forgetting a contact number) and return it to Pat Thornton or Rhona Goss by 11th August at the latest.

Sandy & Pat Thornton

Hard for some people to praise Jesus

Persecution of Christians continues this day in many places. In 2022, advocacy group Open Doors said that at least 360 million Christians experienced "high levels of persecution and discrimination." This was 20 million higher than 2021.

The group also estimated that the number of Christians killed for their faith rose to 5,898 in 2022, up from 4,761 in 2021. Afghanistan, North

Korea, Somalia, Libya, and Yemen saw the highest rates of persecution globally. Persecution included instances of intimidation, disinformation, stereotyping, legal threats, and attacks on places of worship.

A bishop says notes women face a “double marginalisation:” In the last 10 years, anecdotal evidence has begun to emerge from persecuted Christians that women were suffering violent attacks, targeted abuses and restrictions in the face of ‘double marginalisation’. They were marginalised and abused because of being both a woman and Christian.

For the 50 countries analysed, it found Christian women were often at a higher risk than men from persecution. Physical violence, economic harassment and imprisonment were reported against men, while forced marriage, sexual and physical violence, and forced divorce were reported against women.

The issue of gender-specific religious persecution was debated by the House of Commons in March 2022.

This of course sets us thinking about ourselves. How much courage do we have? How strong is our faith? Would we go to a dark and dingy prison cell while others robbed us of our worldly belongings?

The Christian’s answer is prayer and the Word of God. We are reminded of Hebrews, chapter 4. *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

Through all the terrible suffering because of their faith these people continue to sing praise to the Lord. Our prayer is that one day the persecution will end and all may openly worship, with no fear of persecution.

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