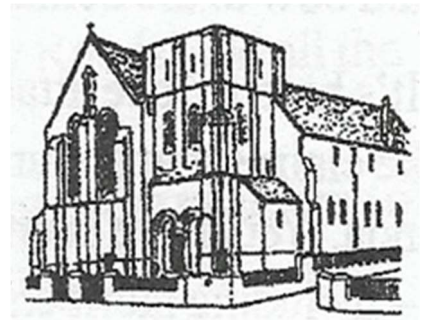




No 514

CONTACT

The Parish
Magazine
of
CARNOUSTIE
CHURCH



Sept/October 2023

From the Minister's Desk

“...One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus”

Philippians 3: 13-14

Dear Friends,

There's a line in an old hymn that, when I first heard it, made me laugh out loud: “...for nothing changes here”. To my young ears it sounded like the church: staid, immovable, boring. By contrast, for many long-standing members change sometimes seems to be too fast or too radical!

On the 3rd of September the three congregations of Barry, Carnoustie, and Carnoustie Panbride each held a congregational meeting at the close of their Sunday services. The results of the votes were a clear decision in favour of uniting our congregations to form Carnoustie: Trinity, with Rev Annette Gordon and myself as the Team Ministers for the charge.

For some, this may not seem like an immediate change – our Sunday services will continue with mostly the same pattern, led by the same Minister and Worship Leaders, meeting at the same time. The Guilds and other church groups will follow their agreed syllabus or pattern of life and meeting.

From the start of 2024 there will be one Kirk Session to manage the three congregations, and some of the way things are run will begin to be

harmonised. Only one set of accounts will be produced for 2024, although they may be more complex as they deal with special or restricted funds, particularly regarding buildings.

Over the next four months leading up to the end of the year Annette and I, along with the Elders and Board members of the three congregations, will begin to plan the new shape of life and ministry for the Church of Scotland in Carnoustie. Committees or teams for Carnoustie: Trinity will be reshaped, established, or perhaps even wound up.

We will still be working in mission for our town alongside the other denominations in our town, and we look forward to this core part of our witness growing and developing in the years ahead. This coming year will also see the exploration of our further partnership with the new Monifieth & South Angus union.

I began this letter with a short quotation from a hymn. The full verse reminds us that it is not the Church that doesn't change, but the Lord of the Church. We need to grow, to learn, to be transformed; we are being made into the image of Jesus Christ, but we will not achieve completion until all things are made new.

But the God who loves us, and gave us His Son, and sent us His Spirit, is the One who does not change. Here we have our security, our refuge, our hope; and we are “changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place”.

As we travel onwards into a new and changing future, let us hold firmly to what we have been given in Christ: His freedom, His grace, His life, His love. Let's pray for all of us as we labour together in the service of our Saviour.

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. **Carnoustie: Trinity** – Pray for the new partnership for the three Church of Scotland congregations as we move towards the Union at the turn of the year, for all the Office Bearers and for Mike and Annette in their new Team Ministry.

2. **Residential Homes** – As regular services are re-established in the homes throughout Carnoustie, pray for staff and residents, and for the Church services we provide, that the love of Christ might be shared among all.

3. **National Health Service** – as we continue to give thanks for the care and healing provided by all the Health professionals who serve the public, pray for a fair resolution of strike action for all who work in the NHS.

Congregational Register

Funerals

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

Jun 30 **David Blair** *

Jul 25 **Alec Duncan**

27 **Mrs Meg Mirrey**

Aug 4 **June Butchart**

David Blair

Having worked for many years as an editor for DC Thomson, it was inevitable that David was asked to serve as editor of Contact, which he did in partnership with Alan Gall for many, many years. David was ordained an Elder and admitted to the Kirk Session in Carnoustie in 1985, and took his duties very seriously.

David's wife Sheila's death almost four years ago was a sore blow, but in his latter years he enjoyed the faithful care of their daughter Kathleen and the regular visits of their son Andrew.

David became another sorely missed member of our congregation when he died on June 21st, and many gathered to say their farewells at the service in Carnoustie Church.

Coming Up

Prayer Meetings Mondays 10 - 11 am in the Manse (usually)

Sun 17 th Sep	11 am	BB & GA Enrolment
Mon 18 th Sep	7.30 pm	Carnoustie Churches Youth Mission
Wed 20 th Sep	2 pm	Brookfield Service (Annette)
Thur 21 st Sep	4 pm	Union Finance Team
	7 pm	Presbytery Service Union in Monifieth
Sun 24 th Sep	11 am	Harvest and Communion at Carnoustie
Mon 25 th Sep	10 am-12 7.30 pm	Carnoustie Coffee & Chat Carnoustie Kirk Session
Thur 28 th Sep	2 pm	Barry Guild Afternoon Teas
Mon 2 nd Oct	7 pm	Barry Kirk Session
Wed 4 th – Tues 17 th Oct		Minister's Holiday (Mike)
Wed 18 th Oct	7.30 pm	Church Life & Worship Team tbc
Sun 22 nd Oct	11 am	Communion
Mon 23 rd Oct	7.30 pm	Carnoustie Kirk Session
Wed 25 th Oct	7.30 pm	Mission & Outreach Team tbc
Thur 26 th Oct	2 pm	Barry Afternoon Teas
Mon 30 th Oct	10 am-12	Carnoustie Coffee & Chat
Sun 12 th Nov	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Remembrance (Barry and Carnoustie) War Memorial

Union Votes – the Results

1. Office Bearer meetings – 21st and 23rd August

2. Basis of Union Basis of Team Ministry

Barry -	For: 4	Against: 0	For: 4	Against: 0
Carnoustie -	For: 12	Against: 0	For: 12	Against: 0
Panbride -	For: 28	Against: 1	For: 28	Against: 1

3. Congregational meetings – 3rd September

4. Basis of Union Basis of Team Ministry

Barry-	For: 17	Against: 0	For: 17	Against: 0
Carnoustie-	For: 56	Against: 0	For: 56	Against: 0
Panbride -	For: 80	Against: 9	For: 81	Against: 5

Carnoustie Church putting competition & BBQ

On a damp Friday evening in August 34 hardy members of Carnoustie, Panbride and Barry churches took to the putting green. Despite a heavy shower they all soldiered on to the end and then adjourned to the Manse where Mike had the BBQ going in the garage. As it was a damp evening Mike and Rhona kindly opened their home to the competitors and as usual Rhona had prepared a delicious spread for afters.

The best team score trophy was won by Barry with Eddie Hughes, Malcolm Sim, Shirley Murison and Evelyn Sneddon making up the team. The best individual score for seniors was won jointly by Martin Fair, Malcolm Sim and Evelyn Sneddon who will take possession of the trophy for four months each. The junior trophy (under 17) was won by Andrew Turner. There were 'holes in one' from Malcolm Sim (he had two), Sandra Dow, Elaine Fair, Irene Hoar and Ewan Turner.

Thanks again to all who took part and to Mike and Rhona for their hospitality.

Pat Thornton

Coffee & Chat

Our monthly Coffee & Chats will be resuming this month. The upcoming dates are: Mondays 25th September & 30th October.

Our event for November/ December will be on Saturday 2nd December and will be a Christmas themed event with items for sale, so bring your purses/wallets and start your Christmas shopping. Come along to the church any time from 10am to 12 noon and enjoy a mug of coffee or tea (with free refills), a cake and some excellent company. All for the fantastic price of a minimum £2.00 donation. Now that's value for money.

Audrey Duncan

Flower List

Sept 24th

Mrs W Oswald

Mrs S M Penman

Mrs M Ramsay

Oct 22nd

Mr C Haggart

Mrs R Limmack

Miss J Reid

Sandra and Claire Penman

Guild News

This Session of the Guild is one of mystery as no one knows how it will pan out. As the year progresses no one knows where we will be able to meet but we will go forward in Faith!

Our Session begins in September when we will have two meetings as Guild Week is 9th-17th.

On Wednesday 13th we have Evelyn with her strangely named “A Starry Sunflower”. All will become clear!”

Our second September meeting, hopefully, will bring our speaker from our project UNIDA on the 27th. He sadly didn’t make it to our meeting last year so we hope and pray this year will be more successful!

October 11th brings Sandra Dow with part two of her amazing holiday, this time entitled “*Cruising and Singing*” which I’m sure will be most entertaining!

November 8th is when we will have the pleasure of hearing from Rev Jonathon Humphrey and his work in Dundee.

We end the year with our traditional Christmas lunch in the Station Hotel on Friday December 15th at 1.30 for 2pm.

All meetings begin at 2pm in the Church with refreshments before the meetings which will be at 2.30pm.”

Since we don’t know how work will progress on the Church in the new year, we will look at the remainder of our Syllabus then.

Everyone is made very welcome at any meeting. Do come along!!

Pru Milne

Visiting Sri Lanka

In early July, Brian and I visited Sri Lanka, and when we tell people they immediately think, how lovely. But we went there with Release International, a Christian Mission established to serve persecuted Christians, to meet some persecuted Christians and to hear their stories.

Jesus once said; “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” Unfortunately, this is true today and globally the persecution of Christians is widespread, and in some countries, it is increasing. We were humbled and honoured to meet some very brave people who are determined to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. We would like to share two of their stories with you.

Pastor ‘I’ shared with us that his father was the first in his family to accept Christ. But his father had been a very violent man and had almost certainly been involved in crimes of violence including murder, so he was feared and therefore never persecuted for his faith.

For Pastor ‘I’, however, there has been opposition. He now realises that when 20 families receive Christ or Christianity, local villagers see it as an alien invasion. Buddhist villages organised an attack by 1000 people on the church in March 2022. These attacks were instigated by 10 temples. He was threatened and told to stop services; people were beaten, and one was hospitalised. Pastor ‘I’ has had death threats, even whilst in a police station.

It was Easter Sunday when he was challenged by the police who had come armed with guns and told him to stop his service. Then the police took him and about 100 of his congregation to the police station. Our partners in Sri Lanka provided legal aid and support, and his situation is better for now.

One of the monks who led the attack has since become his friend. Some of the other monks who got the thugs to attack him had been childhood friends and have since spoken in his defence.

Since the incident his church has grown by 500% What a remarkable story and what an exciting outcome!

He considers that many people in Sri Lanka are very open to the Gospel. He told us that his strategy is very simple: WIN people to faith in Christ, BUILD up people in their faith, TRAIN them to share the Gospel and then SEND them out.

Pastor 'N' has a violent criminal past. But he came to faith and is now a Christian pastor. He too has faced hostility. He has been physically attacked in attempts to make him lose his temper and retaliate, thus drawing him back to his old ways. But to no avail.

He now has seven congregations and runs a drug and alcohol rehab unit. His vision is to reach all who live in his area of Sri Lanka. He asks us to pray for him. He values prayer for all the issues relating to persecution, for grace not to retaliate, and for deliverance from his enemies. He also asks for prayer for his ministry, and for those in the underworld; many of them are his old friends.

These are just two of many stories from a land where Christian leadership requires real bravery, where congregations may be intimidated and the pressures to give up our faith can be very strong. Please pray for persecuted Christians in the world today. Some of them pay for their faith with their lives. They need our support. Thank you.

Linda and Brian Oxburgh

Project Updates

We are looking forward to the sale of the Philip Hall being concluded by the end of September. This sale will provide a much-needed boost to our project funds. The concert that was enjoyed on 2nd September was a great success but showed how important the need is to provide better toilet and kitchen facilities if we want to hold further similar events.

The Monday morning coffee and chat sessions will begin again at the end of September and this also illustrates the need for better facilities. People come along and enjoy the welcome, the refreshments and the chat but it would be much more pleasant if we had a proper functioning kitchen and a floor clear of heating pipes to make it a more flexible and comfortable meeting place.

When we embarked on this project several years ago it seemed like we would have to climb a mountain to raise the funds but 5 or 6 years on, looking back, if every member of our church had pledged £1,000.00, to be given over 5 years, along with the fundraising and grants given, we would have reached our total by now and been able to begin the work this year.

It is not too late though. If everyone pledged just £500 to be given over the next 10 months, it would give us the £100,000 needed to get the work completed by next Christmas. Just think about what a facility our building could offer to the community, a wonderful place to meet, enjoy hobbies and engage in inspiring worship together. Please consider how you could help.

Rhona is doing her bit, a great deal more difficult than just giving money, but what a star she is, cycling all those miles to support our church building project. Don't forget to add your name and donation to a sponsor form. The scaffolding has been up on the west side of the church for a few weeks now and it is hoped that all the items that have been ordered to fit will arrive soon and work can commence.

It will be good to see people working hard to make the building wind and watertight. Our hard-working team of volunteers are doing their best but if anyone can help with ideas or support, please get in touch, everyone will be made very welcome to the team.

Irene

A Concert in Church

On Saturday, 2 September, we welcomed James Hutcheson and Richard Allan's Friends Choir and Band who entertained over 130 people for over an hour and a half with popular songs. Those who attended the concert were welcomed with refreshments and were entertained by the excellent choir, band and soloists. Thanks to all who came along to the evening as we raised £1,335, after costs, for the Church Redevelopment Project.

Pat Thornton

A wee Quiz (For Mums, Dads and children)

Who baptized Jesus and in what river?

Name the first two apostles to follow Jesus.

What was the profession of Simon Peter before following Jesus?

Where did Jesus turn water into wine?

How many days was Lazarus dead before Jesus came to visit?

What is the name of the garden where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper?

After Jesus fed 5,000 people, how many baskets of food were left over?

What colour are the four horses in the Book of Revelation?

How old was Jesus when he started his ministry?

What was the name of the woman who washed Jesus' feet?

After Jesus was crucified, who took His body down from the cross?

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