

St Margaret's News
May/June 2017



Pentecost -

The gift of the Holy Spirit and

“The birth of the Church”

***We look at renewal and re-birth in our church of
St Margaret's-***

“Come, Holy Spirit, come!”

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From our Reader

The Easter story is central and crucial to our faith. The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead lies at the very core of all that Christians believe. That belief is summed up in the Apostles Creed -

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

And yet a recent BBC survey of some 2000 people revealed – 23% of Christians do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Among Christians who regularly attend church and worship, only 57% believe completely in the resurrection.

These are quite alarming statistics and beg certain questions of us – do we Christians take our faith seriously enough? Or, to go one stage further – do we take God seriously enough?

Politicians certainly cannot be faulted for taking their politics seriously. Within hours of Theresa May calling a snap General Election, the first salvos of the campaign were being fired. Party leaders began touring the length and breadth of the country and the many and diverse manifesto pledges began to emerge. One has to admire the stamina, passion and belief of all those involved in the political process.

The Easter events are seen by some as an end. Jesus had accomplished everything he set out to do. Whereas, I prefer to see Easter, each year, as a new start, an exciting new beginning in which we all have a part to play.

At our service on Sunday 7 May, the Kirk Session will be presenting what we might call our 'local manifesto' in the form of a "Mission Action Plan" (MAP) covering the next 5 years. It will seek to promote and implement, in our parish, the 'national (or indeed worldwide) manifesto' about the significance of - the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And what better time to do that than during the Easter season, the high point of the Christian calendar.

In his recently published book, "*Last Testament*", Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, rightly states – "*The real problem at this moment in our history is that God is disappearing from the human horizon.*" In other words, the struggle the church in the west faces is not dwindling membership, but a dwindling faith.

Therefore, as a Christian community, we need to lay Christ's manifesto commitments before the people. We need to be able to stand up for our movement leader, Jesus Christ. To that end, you might like to try a little spiritual exercise. *Take a line a day from the above verses of the Apostles' Creed and for just 10 or 15 minutes think about what each line means for you.* In just 10 days you will have carefully contemplated the basis of our faith. For we need to seriously think about our faith so that we might exhibit the same sort of confidence, passion and belief as the first disciples after the resurrection. And dare I say, we also need to face today's dwindling faith challenges, with the same zest and tenacity exhibited by our politicians in the current General Election campaign.

We have very good manifesto to share, so let's do it.

Gordon Brown



FROM THE EDITOR

Hello – and welcome to the Spring edition of the magazine! Great to see the colours of the Spring flowers and plants back with us and oh what a relief to be back to the longer days – just wish they were a bit warmer as well!

As I write this Iain should be on his way back from China having visited there with Linda and some of the Family to meet their new addition to their Family – Susu. We look forward very much indeed to welcoming Susu to the wider Family that is St. Margaret's and hope that she settles into her new and strange surroundings very quickly!

In Iain's absence in China I asked Gordon Brown if he would submit the "Minister's Page"! I do hope you like his contribution which I think is very insightful and thought provoking indeed!

Also included this time is the "Gleanings from the Session Clerk". This contains some very interesting thoughts which you will find useful for the Church Congregational Meeting on 7th May and I do hope that you will take time to give it a "good read"!

I have been asked if I would consider re-introducing sending the magazine out by e mail to those that want it that way. In fact the magazine is already available electronically as it appears on the website and I asked Morna if she would give details on the simple way to access the magazine this way and you will find her page elsewhere in this edition. One of the advantages to St. Margaret's by taking the magazine electronically is of course that we do not need to spend so much on printing all the copies that we do. We currently print off 230 copies which takes up a lot of paper and ink – money which could be put towards the roof fund! We will still of course print enough copies for those that still wish to receive the magazine in paper format and delivered by our team of distributors. I will have to find a system whereby I obtain a list of those that will no longer need a paper copy of

the magazine – am working on this with hopefully details in the next magazine!

I have again included a couple of pages out of the 39th Fife magazine this month (courtesy of David Langskail) and liked very much the page headed "Someone Else"! I included it so that Keith's search for new volunteers could be spread wider but it also reverberated the plea from Cath McCulloch for new volunteers to help with the Tea and Coffee on a Sunday morning after church. Please help out if you can.

Enjoy the read – and remember

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Ross Kerr

The Kirk Session warmly invites you to

COMMUNION

Date: Sunday, June 18th

Times: 10am and 7.15pm



Communion Duty 2017

Sunday June 18th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Walter Faichney

1. Mrs M Aitken
2. Mrs Fiona Grieve
3. J Grieve
4. Mrs A McArthur

5. T McIntosh
6. Mrs M McIntosh
7. D Clark
8. J McLean

Reserve: Mrs Irene C Cunningham

Sunday September 17th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Millar Gordon

1. J Colville
2. J Adamson
3. Mrs L Adamson
4. J Anderson

5. S Foxley
6. I Telfer
7. Mrs Etta Pratt
8. Mrs A Prentice

Reserve: Mrs S Richards

Sunday November 19th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Ross Kerr

1. Mrs I Cunningham
2. Mrs I Gillespie
3. Mrs J McAleece
4. Mrs J Gresty

5. J Thomson
6. Manuel Giraldas
7. D Clark
8. Mrs J Eadie

Reserve: Mrs M Watson

Getting on to the St Margaret's Website

You need to have the internet on your computer.

Then either:

Type into your search box (on Google, Yahoo or any other search)

Dunfermline St Margaret's Church of Scotland

And just click on the result for our church (remembering that the other St Margaret's is there too, but is called St Margaret's RC Memorial Church)

Or

Type our address in the address box at the top of the screen

www.stmargscos.org.uk

Once you've done this once, just click on the "add to favourites" mark at the top right of your screen (usually a star) and you don't need to go through all the typing next time you visit – your computer will save the link and you'll only need to click on the name in your favourites (sometimes called your "bookmarks bar") to get to the St Margaret's website home page.

Once you're there, there's a lot you can do!

To Access the Magazine

- On the menu bar at the top of our homepage, there is a "Magazine" link. Click on this and you'll get a list of current and past magazines.
- Just click on the one you want to read!
- Use the up and down arrow keys or your mouse to scroll through the pages.
- Enjoy!



GLEANINGS FROM THE SESSION CLERK

In the past few months you will no doubt have heard references to the “future plan” for our Church and congregation and that a plan for the next five years is being prepared which will set out and detail plans and ideas for the future of our congregation for next five years.

In 2015, approximately one year after we adopted the Unitary Constitution, a review of the way in which the Kirk Session and committees operate was undertaken, as a result of which some changes were made to the way the Kirk Session and the committees operate, new Elders were appointed and some Elders transferred to the role of Honorary Elders. Shortly thereafter Presbytery undertook our Local Church Review (LCR), a process whereby Presbytery ask us to complete a detailed review of all that goes on in the life of the Church. In the course of preparing for the LCR the Kirk Session agreed that we should prepare a plan for the life of the Church congregation and for our mission in the parish over the next five years.

The plan, known as the MAP, (Mission & Action Plan) has been prepared by Gordon with assistance from Iain and was unanimously approved by the Kirk Session.

The MAP will be presented to members at the Congregational meeting to be held on 7th May and it is hoped will receive unanimous support from the members.

The plan sets out the detailed plans for each of the committees and their plans as to how best to achieve the objectives set out for each committee. and how these plans will impact on the mission and action which it is considered should be the main focus for both our work as a congregation and in the Parish.

All of the foregoing is of course set against the financial challenges to be met in meeting the requirements of renewing the Church Roof and all

the other property and fabric matters on our agenda. What is the present position re the foregoing? We are awaiting a visit from the General Trustees who will inspect both the Church and the Manse. The Trustees will have the architects report to Presbytery on both the Church and the Manse and they will then consider what assistance can be given by way of both Grants and Loans. Approaches will also be made for assistance for further funding.

In addition to all of the foregoing we are still hoping to appoint a Children and Families worker.

A considerable challenge for us all but one which we require to meet head on if we wish to secure the ongoing future of St Margaret's Parish Church in both serving our congregation and our parish.

Gordon and Iain have given a great deal of thought and work and no doubt prayer also in preparing the MAP and we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for all their efforts.

The best way of thanking them both would be for us to unanimously adopt the plan, to do all that we can to support Iain, Gordon and the committees in the various tasks and initiatives which they undertake to fulfil the objectives of the plan whilst at the same time asking for God's help in all that we seek to do.

"A river cuts through rock not because of its power but through persistence"

Ritchie Campbell

Excerpt from Gordon Brown's Service on Sunday 16th April

The blind poet, mystic and preacher, George Matheson said:

We pray, '**Enlighten our eyes!**' - but often we can only get our inner eye enlightened by having the outer eye shaded.

Is the soul never to get moments for repose – for meditation, self-reflection? Is it never to have an hour all to itself – an hour when its doors are shut, when its windows are covered, when its outside voices are hushed, when it is untouched by the heat of the day?

God says, 'Yes, it shall have such moments'.

He stops me midway in the race.

He lays His hand upon me, and I fall.

He bears me into the silence, into the solitude.

He puts the multitude all out, and locks the door.

He closes the shutters of the casement.

He interrupts the music in the street & the dancing in the hall.

*He says, '**Your nerves are weary with excitement...rest awhile.**'*

The more we allow ourselves to be saturated by the Spirit of the Risen Christ, the more we will see new birth, new life, everywhere.

Resurrection, living in Jesus - Jesus in us, sensitises us to the tenderness and fragility of God's life in all things.

(Thought this was worth printing even though you were at the service or watched it over the internet. Strong Words! – Ed)

Scout News



GSL's GLEANINGS

GSL

by Keith Strachan

WELCOME

After the normal 'mad' December for the Group, things have been quieter in the first quarter of the year, but no less busy. Looking back, we had a "disappointing" turnout for the Youth Church Service at the beginning of December and similarly very few attendees at the Beaver/Cub/Rainbow and Brownie Carol Service the same day.

It was good to see lots of parents getting involved in what was another very busy Christmas Post but again it is good fun and a chance to meet up with parents we haven't seen for some time. It is so much fun we see parents coming in to help who no longer have kids at the Group!

Our evening at the Pantomime went well with around 90 Scouts and family attending. Just to let you know we have received the flyers for this year's Pantomime asking if we wish to reserve seats!!

The Cubs have now concluded the year-long celebration of their Centenary with a show in December followed in January by the planting of a Time Capsule as a District at Fordell Firs Campsite.

Regretfully, for the first time in 35 years we were unable to run our annual Burns Supper in January. This was simply down to a lack of ticket sales to make the huge effort that goes into putting this dinner on worthwhile. It does mean we have a hole in our finances and our Executive Committee will require to

debate if we try to run it again next year or look at alternative events throughout the year that parents/ families are more likely to support.

In February, we attended the Scout/Guide Thinking Day Service at St Margaret's Church in Touch. After a plea for a better attendance I am pleased to say the numbers did improve slightly, but should still be so much better - only 20 Scouts from the 4 Sections attended out of a total of some 120 Scouts. Once more the Service was very good and my thanks to the Scouts, Leaders and Parents who did attend.

Our new PC's and printer are up and running and this provides the Sections with an additional resource for badgework and information.

WHAT'S NEW ???

As you will have noticed, painting of the hallway is now complete and the whole hall is looking excellent. We had a debate among the Leaders and Executive over putting up the old Award boards in the hallway after the painting and decided that the Award Boards will be placed on the walls in the Committee Room and new larger display boards will be put up in the hallway. We are also proposing to put up a new Awards board in the hallway for our current

Scouts that have/do achieve the Chief Scout Award from the various Sections. We are also looking to put a PC screen in the hallway to run messages/information on it for parents.

CAMPS & CAMPING

Not long now until the clocks 'Spring' forward an hour and we have the light nights once more. Family Camp will soon be upon us in May and the Group Camp has been advertised for June at Fordell Firs.



With Easter approaching the Leaders and Explorer Scouts are on duty making and serving the Easter Breakfast at our Church on Easter Sunday.

SOMEONE ELSE!

by Keith Strachan

I am sad to advise of the passing of one of our Group's most valuable members -- Someone Else.

Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else has been with us for many years, and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than the normal person's share of the work. Whenever Leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for

inspiration as well as results. Someone Else can work with that group. Whenever there was a job to do, a fundraiser to organise, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips, "Let Someone Else do it." Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? Remember, we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

The Group Executive Committee needs a new Secretary and at our next AGM in June will require a new Chairman and Treasurer. Our Beaver and Cub Sections require Section Assistants to work with the Leaders to share the load.

*Lots of opportunities to help the Scout Group!
Please don't leave it to Someone Else.*

Go on volunteer today!

Etta's Charities and World Mission Pages

DUNFERMLINE FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you once again for the contributions to the foodbank -

Thanks to everyone who contributes - the Foodbank team are grateful for all donations. There is now a blue box on the top landing next to the Rita Elder Hall for contributions.

SEGAL HOMELESS HOSTEL - Pittencrief Street, Dunfermline

Many thanks for the donations of baby clothes which were handed in to the homeless unit, they were very much appreciated.

Segal Hostel is a family hostel and can have up to 24 people in at any one time, often families come in through the night in emergency situations and only have the clothes they stand up in. Donations such as:

Toiletries; clothing, adults and children (new only); toys (new only), and food donations are always in demand.

Please contact me if you feel you can contribute to the hostel or items can be handed in to the hostel at the reception desk. Thank you

Etta Pratt

USED STAMPS - ongoing collection

Thanks for all the donations of used stamps, they are being recycled by CHAS charity at the Kinross stamp shop.

A letter (enclosed) has been received thanking us for our support by donating stamps and how the money raised from them is used to care for families and children at the hospice.

Please see below for further information on World Mission's 2017 Stamp appeal. The next batch to stamps to be collected will be sent on to this appeal.

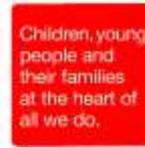
Children's Hospice Association Scotland

2nd Floor, Buchanan Tower, Buchanan Park,
Cumbernauld Road, Stepps, Glasgow G33 6HZ

tel: 0141 779 6180

email: glasgow@chas.org.uk

web: www.chas.org.uk



08 March 2017

Your CHAS number is 806568/144374

St Margarets Parish Church

Able Place

Touch

Dunfermline

KY11 4JH

Dear Friends,

Feargus is one of the children who, thanks to your kindness, CHAS cares for. Your amazing donation of stamps from your parishioners means that Feargus and his family can enjoy fun times when they stay at CHAS.

Feargus is nearly two-years-old and has a life-shortening condition. For him and his family – mum Emma, dad Ronan, big sister Evie and brother Aidan - some of their favourite times are spent at CHAS.

Emma shares what their visits to the hospice means to them: "It's about living, it's not about end of life all the time. It's about making the best of what you have and making memories because that's really all we are doing is making memories."

Thanks to your donation our Rachel House Children's Hospice in Kinross, Robin House Children's Hospice in Balloch, and our CHAS at Home team, which cares for families in their own homes, are there for families when they need us most. It means they can create a lifetime of memories.

Thank you from everyone at CHAS for your support. It allows us to care for families like Feargus' when they need us most.

Best wishes

Hayley Simpson
Income Management Assistant
support@chas.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 14 – 20 MAY – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Coffee morning after church service on Sunday 14th May, all proceeds to Christian Aid Scotland. Please come along and enjoy home baking with your tea or coffee. A collection at the door will be available for anyone who wishes to donate but cannot attend the coffee morning.

Other events include:

the **Forth Bridge Cross on Saturday 22 April 2017, 2pm start.**

An old favourite with a new view! Join in to raise money and admire the new Queensferry Crossing.

Loch Leven Heritage Trail - Saturday 3 June 2017

A brand new sponsored walk or cycle around the stunning Loch Leven. With wildlife, history and remarkable views, this event will be a unique experience and day out for all ages and abilities.

Book Sales – Edinburgh

Once again St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street, Edinburgh and Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, 15 Chamberlain Place, Edinburgh are holding their annual book sales.

The opening times for St Andrew's and St George's are **Saturday 13 May 2017, 10am-4pm; Monday 15 - Wednesday 17 May 2017, 10am-3.30pm; Thursday 18 May 2017, 10am-7pm; Friday 19 May 2017, 10am-3.30pm**

This has been an Edinburgh institution since 1974. Expect books of every kind, paintings, antiques, ephemera, sheet music, stamps and postcards, records and CDs, DVDs, toys and games, baking and preserves.

The Undercroft café will be open for refreshments.

Edinburgh and Morningside United Church opening times are **Saturday 13 May 2017, 10am-5pm; Monday 15 - Friday 19 May 2017, 11am-6pm; Saturday 20 May 2017, 10am-5pm**

Books, music, postcards, maps, stamps and similar will be on sale, also refreshments available both Saturdays. Each year the amount raised has increased, last year the sale raised £18,000.

New for this year is the Christian Aid Week book sale at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh open from **Saturday 13 - Friday 19 May 2017, 10am-3pm.**

Please see Christian Aid website at christianaid.org.uk/scotland for further information and events.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly 2017 opens on Saturday 20 May and closes on Friday 26 May.

MISSION PARTNER NEWS

Kate McDonald – Israel March 2017

Please see letter received from Kate with her news from Tiberias.

PARTNERPLAN

Kate McDonald - Israel March 2017

St Andrew's Tiberias
PO Box 104
1 Gdud Barak Street, Tiberias 14100, Israel
kmcdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk
www.revisedontology.com

Dear Friends,

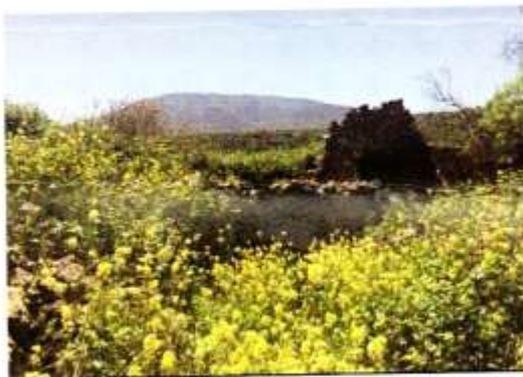
Greetings from Tiberias, and apologies for the delay in writing to you. In my last letter, I wrote about the hint of rain, and the promise of new life it brings. Spring has indeed arrived in Tiberias, and the hills around me are covered with green and dotted all over with poppies.



Springtime

I'd like to start by thanking all of you who have been holding me in prayer over these past few months as Justin and I have separated. It has been a difficult time, but we both have been overwhelmed by the compassionate, loving response we received from our friends, family, colleagues, and all who are connected to us through the church. Your graciousness and kindness have helped sustain us as we find our way in these new phases of our lives.

I was in Virginia recently visiting family and friends, a much-needed change of scenery and time of rest. But by the end of the two weeks, I was ready to come back to Israel-Palestine. I missed my friends here, my congregation, our partner organisations, the food, the sun ... even the crazy drivers! When I arrived back, the emergence of spring that took place in this land while I was away seemed to mirror the slow healing that had almost imperceptibly taken place in my soul. The desert has indeed bloomed. Praise God.



Mustard plants

Everywhere I look, mustard plants fill the fields and seem to have taken over the land overnight, and are even growing on the roof of the outbuildings of my garden. As I drive around the Galilee, Jesus' parable comes to mind: 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches' (Mt 13.31-32). In these times when the world feels so troubled and anxious, I take heart in this parable knowing that God's kingdom will prevail and spread through all the earth.

121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN
T: +44 (0)131 225 5722 E: world@churchofscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SCO11353

PARTNERPLAN

Since I last wrote, we have, of course, celebrated Christmas. In Tiberias, because it is mostly a Jewish town, there are few signs of Christmas other than the decorations at the Scots Hotel. I'm never sure how many people might attend our services, and based on numbers of past years wasn't expecting more than a dozen or so. However, at our Lessons & Carols service on Christmas Eve, we had about fifty people — from Latvia, the Netherlands, Germany, South Korea, Scotland. We had nearly that many at our Communion service on Christmas Day, and when I invited the congregation to say the Lord's Prayer in their own languages, it was a beautiful harmony.

The Scots Hotel had also helped organise a Christmas Eve concert with two singers from the Israeli Opera Ensemble, and both local residents and hotel guests were so enthusiastic about it that we've decided to make it an annual event. Hanukkah started on Christmas Eve as well, and it was moving to be able to celebrate two festivals of light and share the joy of the season with our Jewish brothers and sisters.



Now we find ourselves in the season of Lent. Instead of attending a pancake party, I joined the staff at the Scots Hotel for their annual staff party at a local restaurant. We were all welcomed not to Hollywood but to Scottiwood with a walk down a red carpet. In addition to an illusionist and a (nearly violently competitive!) Hollywood-themed quiz, five of the hotel's departments had created short videos which were shown. Some staff have missed a calling as actors; others really ought not to quit their day jobs! It was a fabulous evening of great food and lots of laughter. In a land where there is so much division and segregation based on race and religion, it is a sign of hope to see a community of people from all four religions (Christian, Muslim, Jews, Druze) celebrating together and encouraging one another.

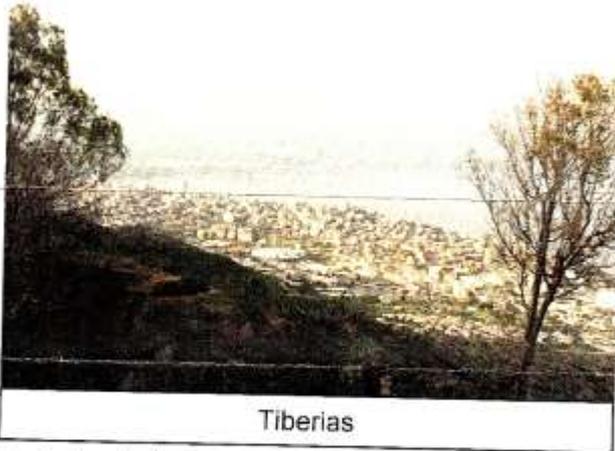
On Ash Wednesday evening, I welcomed a group of Pakistani Canadians who had their service in St Andrew's. It was a privilege to be able to observe the holy day with them, and to participate in their worship held in a mix of Urdu, Punjabi and English.

This time of year is a busy one for pilgrim groups, and I find that more groups are getting in touch with me to use the church for their worship, to have me speak about the Church of Scotland's ministry here, or to arrange a speaker from the local Arab Christian community. It's a wonderful way for them to engage with what we often refer to as 'the living stones' of the Holy Land, the Christians who keep the faith alive. I find over and over again that pilgrims come to this land hoping to find God in the holy sites, but instead encounter God in the people they meet.

It's also a busy time for the guest flat at Yakfie, my house. I offer it free of charge to church workers and volunteers, many of whom are working in parts of the land where the conflict is most acute. It's a place for them to retreat to and rest. It's being well-used and is now fully booked through the end of April. I love meeting the people from all over the world who come to stay, and hearing the stories of their work escorting Palestinian children past soldiers and settlers to school, being present at home demolitions, and monitoring checkpoints helps me keep in touch with what is happening across the West Bank.

PARTNERPLAN

In the midst of all the busyness of work, this season of Lent I am trying to be more intentional about finding moments of quiet in my days. Unlike past years, when I've given up alcohol or certain kinds



of food, I've decided to do a 'screen fast' and turn off all electrical lights at 8.30pm. I allow myself my Kindle for reading, but the TV and computer go off, and my phone is switched to silent. As I light candles, the house is filled with a peaceful, soft, natural glow. The evenings feel longer because I can't distract myself with Netflix or mindless internet browsing. I don't have emails popping up, or WhatsApp messages pinging through. There is a gentleness to the time, a calm in which I can read, pray, reflect on Sunday's lectionary readings, or simply stare at the flickering flames and the dancing shadows they cast on the walls.

I will shortly be returning to Scotland for the General Assembly and deputation in May and June. I will be with the Presbytery of Dundee 2 - 12 June and the Presbytery of Dunfermline 16 - 26 June. Please contact your World Mission Presbytery Conveners if you'd like me to visit your parish or if you'd like more information about my schedule. I hope to meet many of you during that time.

In the meantime, thank you all for your prayers, and please know you are in mine.

I wish you every blessing,

Kate

Prayer requests:

Pray for all the people of this land, and for the international volunteers who accompany them in places of tension and violence.

Pray for our partner organisations working for a just peace.

Pray for the congregation of St Andrew's Tiberias and for all Christians observing this season of Lent.

Pray for the staff in the Scots Hotel, as they offer hospitality and service to pilgrims and visitors.

Pray for Kate as she continues her work and prepares for her time on deputation.

NEWS SNIPPETS FROM THE WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

MAGAZINE ISSUE NO 77

*Contributors: Eleri Birkhead Development Officer, World Mission Council
Bill Gray WM Presbytery Convener, Glasgow
Rev. Iain May South Leith Parish Church
Valerie Brown Church and Community Manager, Christian Aid
Kate McDonald, Mission Partner - Tiberias
Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, Secretary for Ecumenical and International
Relations, Czech Republic*

This issue include articles on the following:

Stamps, Books, and a Brighter Future: 2017 Stamp Project

The 2017 Stamp Project provides much needed support for our partners the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan's Giffen Institute of Theology. The Institute, established in 1974, was the first of its kind. Most of the PCOSS' Ministers will train at GIT, which has a very good reputation. Despite training 75% of the PSCOSS' ministry workers, GIT has not avoided the troubles faced by South Sudan in recent years. The Institute itself has had to relocate twice because of violence and insecurity. They are now based in Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya. In the midst of the violence, their library was burnt to the ground, and all books were lost. The money raised from stamps will go towards providing books for students. They can be posted to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB or left for collection in the Rita Elder Hall.

Getting to Know You! An interview with *Kate McDonald*

We put some questions to Kate McDonald who lives and works in Tiberias as a Mission Partner. Here are just a few examples from the Magazine.

Where are you in the World? And what do you do? I'm in Tiberias, Israel. And my work includes serving a small English-speaking congregation,

acting in a chaplaincy role to staff and guests at the Scots Hotel, and visiting our partner organisations around Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. I also lead assemblies at Tabeetha School in Jaffa, worship with local Christian congregations, and offer hospitality in my guest-flat to volunteers working in the land.

How did you end up in Tiberias?

In November 2014, I was the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) representative on a visit organised by the Church of Scotland to Israel-Palestine. I was supposed to return to Scotland to raise awareness amongst the SEC about the challenges faced by Christians in the Holy Land. Instead, I fell so in love with the people and the place that I applied for the Tiberias posting. I do still try to work ecumenically as much as possible, both here and in Scotland.

What does the future hold for you and your work? Only God knows! I never imagined this would be where ministry would take me, so would hate to make any further predictions!

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD - CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid was born at the end of the Second World War in response to the dire humanitarian need that faced post-war Europe. Started by a Church of Scotland minister, Rev Lister, who asked the British Churches to support German and other refugees, Christian Aid grew out of the “belief that practical responses to human suffering should be unconditional, freely offered without coercion and that costly reconciliation is at the heart of the gospel.”

(Kathy Galloway)

Christian Aid has supported refugees since the organisation was established in 1945. Today, around the world 65 million people don't have

a safe place to call home. Our partnership with the Church of Scotland is invaluable as together we are able to achieve so much more.

24TH OF THE MONTH Join us for a time of stories and prayer for peace in Israel and Palestine.

Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts. (www.christianaid.org.uk)

Prayer Focus - "Let the Children come to me"

God of all, God of the children of your world. Help us to glimpse at the Kingdom you say our children belong to. Help us search for ways to ensure all children can come and share in the wonder of your world. Let the children come and hear your story, let them hear about the love, the care, the hope that you so will for all people, especially children. Let the children know that what is around them can change, will change with the love and compassion of those who want to serve through education, or providing food and support. Lord, bless all the little children, especially those who are lonely and so in need of a caring loving hand.

Amen

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS

Colin Johnston is our mission partner in Cairo, Egypt.

Visit colinincairo.wordpress.com to read his blog.

Pray for: 1. The Egyptian government as it seeks to counter terrorism and stabilise the economy. 2. The Christian minority who feel discriminated against and who are at present being persecuted, especially in the Sinai. 3. The staff and students of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, especially those graduating in June and becoming pastors of congregations. 4. The work of St. Andrew's Refugee Services among refugees, especially unaccompanied minors.

The Scottish-Czech Connection –

Growing ties with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren.

Rev. Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, Secretary for Ecumenical and International Relations of the ECCB

The past few years we have seen a wonderful and rapidly growing relationship between the Church of Scotland (CofS) and the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (ECCB). On both sides there are groups of excited Christians who very much enjoy the Scottish-Czech fellowship. Scotland and the Czech Republic are similar in that they are almost the same size. However, there are differences between the two countries. The churches are quite different in size. There are about 80,000 members of the ECCB, just less than one percent of the Czech population, and 400,000 members of the CofS, more than 7 Percent of the Scottish population. Both Churches are looking for new ways to welcome people to the church. The Scottish-Czech relationship has deep roots. In the 19th century Czech students of theology, professors, and pastors enjoyed studying in Scotland very much, and were inspired. In the 1920's and 30's the ECCB invited the CofS to send someone from the Scottish Mission to the Jews, to minister in Prague. Rev. C.A. Smith from Scotland led this mission work for many years; his work has evolved over time, but continues to this day. Read our 'Together We Walk' report for more information on our partners in Europe. www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve

More in Common

Glasgow Twinning with Hyderabad

Bill Gray tells us how Glasgow Presbytery is one step closer to Twinning with the Diocese of Hyderabad in Pakistan. In February this year, the

Presbytery was pleased to welcome Bishop Kaleem John and three other delegates from Hyderabad to Glasgow.

Heart and Soul 2017 – 21 May – Princess Street Gardens

At this year's Heart and Soul, the World Mission Council will offer '*Words for the World*', based on John 10:10. There will be praise dancing, singing from the London Presbyterian Church of East Africa Choir, and much more!

Take part in the '*Word of Life*' challenge, and attempt to read John 10:10 in as many different languages and dialects as possible, and be creative on our '*Word for the World*' graffiti wall. All are welcome to make your mark.

If you want to read more of these stories please see the current World Mission magazine which can be downloaded from www.churchofscotland.org.uk or I can supply you with a paper copy.

Etta Pratt

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Dates For Your Diary

KINGDOM SINGERS

SPRINGTIME SERENADE

Delighted to say that the Kingdom Singers are holding their Springtime Serenade concert on **Thursday May 25th and Friday 26th May in the Carnegie Annexe at 7.30 pm each evening**. Tickets costing £10 (£7 for associate members) which includes refreshments are available from any choir member, through our website or by telephoning Elizabeth Brown on 01383 733956. Always an excellent evening!!

MEN'S BREAKFAST DISCUSSION GROUP

The last meeting for this session is on

Saturday 13th May 2017, 8.30am-10iam

When the discussion on "Business and Ethics"

Will be led by Ian McMillan, former SSE Director; Session Clerk, St Leonard's-in-the-Field, Perth.

For more info, please contact Gordon Brown on 01577 840248

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

June 4	Mrs Cunningham	Mrs. McAleece	Mrs. Gillespie
11	Mrs. McIntosh	Mrs. Chapman	Mrs. McEwan
18	Mrs. McCulloch	Mrs. Gray	Mrs. Maureen Hynd
25	Mrs. Prentice	Mrs. Smith	Mrs. Moultrie
July 2	Mrs. Brown	Mrs. Mgt Hynd	Mrs. Pratt
9	Mrs. Wilson	Mrs. Scoon	Mrs. Telfer
16	Mrs. Bowie	Mrs. Clements	Mrs. Todd
23	Mrs. McIntosh	Mrs. Grieve	Mrs. Gray
30	Mrs. McCulloch	Mrs. Chapman	Mrs. Moultrie

PLEASE NOTE:

If you find that you are on holiday or in July if you are on door duty, would you please try to get a swap!! We are VERY short of members for our team. Do you think you could volunteer – PLEASE??

(The team do a great job for us all with the tea & coffee after Sunday Service. A real coming-together social event and is worthy of as much volunteer support as they can get. If you can manage some time to help out once every few weeks do please get in touch with Cath McCulloch. Ed)

FLOWER CALENDAR 2017

Date	Donor	Tel No.	Arranger	Tel No.
Jan 1	Mr & Mrs Kerr	726663	Audrey McArthur	728128
Jan 8	Joan Eadie	721922	Joan Eadie	721922
Jan 15	Moira Moyes		Coleen Watson	721285
Jan 22	Joan Stevens	720059	Marion Aitken	735996
Jan 29	Pam Moultrie	622329	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Feb 5	Pam Moultrie	622329	Nancy Bowie	737779
Feb 12	A McArthur	728128	Audrey McArthur	728128
Feb 19	MrMrs I Watson	721285	Coleen Watson	721285
Feb 26	Mr Mrs T McIntosh	726342	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Mar 5	Mr and Mrs Short	725119	Marion Aitken	735966
Mar 12	Moira Watson	07766295705	Nancy Bowie	737779
Mar 19	Isobel Gillespie	720199	June McAleece	724992
Mar 26	Jean Todd	724953	Jean Todd	724953
Apr 2	June McAleece	724992	June McAleece	734992
Apr 9	Nancy Bowie	737779	Nancy Bowie	737779
Apr 16	Marion Aitken	735996	Mrs Marion Aitken	735996
Apr 23	Lorraine Stevenson	721075	Audrey McArthur	728128
Apr 30	Vera Wilson	720250	Marjory McIntosh	726342
May 7	Ann & Allan Prentice	852426	June McAleece	724992
May 14	A McArthur	728128	A McArthur	728128
May 21	Helen Bell	725753	Coleen Watson	721285
May 28	Val Evans	727557	Val Evans	727557
Jun 4	Mrs R Kemp-McKinnon	733922	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Jun 11	Margaret Scoon	733937	Nancy Bowie	737779
Jun 18	MrMrs J Cunningham	731947	June McAleece	724992
Jun 25	Mr & Mrs R Pratt	731525	A McArthur	728128
Jul 2	Margaret Orr	737080	Colleen Watson	721285
Jul 9	Margaret Ellis	727565	Marion Aitken	735996
Jul 16	Flower Fund		Nancy Bowie	737779

Jul23	Mr & Mrs T McIntosh 726342	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Jul 30	Mr & Mrs M Gordon 729630	June McAleece	724992
Aug 6	Flower Fund	Audrey McArthur	728128
Aug 13	Mr & Mrs T McIntosh 726342	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Aug 20	Jean Todd 724953	Jean Todd	724953
Aug 27	Marion Aitken 735996	Marion Aitken	735996
Sept 3	J Strang 722026	Coleen Watson	721285
Sept 11	Mr & Mrs T McIntosh 726342	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Sept 17	Mr & Mrs A Short 725119	June McAleece	724992
Sept 24	Moira Watson 07766295705	Nancy Bowie	737779
Oct 1	Mrs Jean Todd 724953	Jean Todd	724953
Oct 8	Mr and Mrs A Turner 726216	Marion Aitken	735996
Oct 15	Mrs V Wilson 720250	June McAleece	724992
Oct 22	Audrey McArthur 728128	Audrey McArthur	728128
Oct 29	Guild	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Nov 5	Mrs M Watson 07766295705	June McAleece	724992
Nov 12	Mrs A Lawrence 725889	Colleen Watson	721284
Nov 19	Mr & Mrs W Bowie 727779	Nancy Bowie	737779
Nov 26	Moira Moyes 738341	Audrey McArthur	728128
Dec 3	Flower Fund	Marion Aitken	735996
Dec 11	Merva Brown 721661	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Dec 17	Mr & J Cunningham 731947	June McAleece	724992
Dec 24	Moira Watson 07766295705	Nancy Bowie	737779
Dec 29	Mr & Mrs I Carlton 721049	Coleen Watson	721285

Please could arrangers swap if these dated are unsuitable.

St. Margaret's Parish Church, Touch

*

CALENDAR FOR DELIVERY OF FLOWERS

1st JANUARY - 25th JUNE 2017

January	1:	John and Diane Hynd	739341
	8:	Janet Gresty	728104
	15:	Christine Hunter	721802
	22:	Isobel Gillespie	720199
	29:	Sheila McIntyre	735352
February:	5:	Audrey McArthur Merva Brown	728128 721661
	12:	Eleanor Loudon	721256
	19:	Tom and Marjory McIntosh	726342
	26:	Marion Aitken	735996
March	5:	Jim and Fiona Grieve	831614
	12:	Maureen Chapman Catherine Gray	725049 732849
	19:	Rachel Wilson	734696
	26:	Margaret Hynd	721314
April	2:	Jim and Linda Adamson	727719
	9:	Walter and Nancy Bowie	737779
	16:	Robert and Etta Pratt	731525
	23:	Jennifer Paxton	249220
	30:	Pam Moultrie	622329
May	7:	John and Sheila McLean	726919
	14:	Marion Smith	726510
	21:	Keith and Elizabeth Brown	733956
	28:	John and Diane Hynd	739341
June	4:	Christine Hunter	721802
	11:	Janet Gresty	728104
	18:	Val Evans	727557
	25:	Isobel Gillespie	720199

Please feel free to change with members of the team if
the date selected is not suitable

We are happy to welcome to the team Jennifer Paxton, Keith and Elizabeth Brown and Robert and Etta Pratt. At the same time we are sorry that Bobbie and Norrie Kemp McKinnon and Syd Foxley are no longer able to continue to be involved, and would express warmest thanks for all their help over the past five years.

ORGANISATIONS

Bowling Fellowship - Meet on Mondays in the main hall at 6.30pm. Contact Tom MacIntosh on 01383 726342

The Craft Group - Meet on Tuesdays in the Rita Elder Hall at 2.00pm. Contact Audrey McArthur on 01383 728128

The Guild - Meet on the first & third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Rita Elder Hall – contact Margaret Hynd on 01383 721314

Women's Fellowship meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Rita Elder Hall. Contact Helen on 725753

Swingnastics – Meet from September to May every Wednesday in the Rita Elder Hall at 10.00am Contact Catherine McCulloch on 01383 734463

Ladies Badminton - Meet for social Badminton every Wednesday at 10.00am - 12 noon in the Church Main Hall. Contact Cherry O'Sullivan on 01383 720594

Banner Group - Meet on Thursdays in the Rita Elder Hall at 2pm Contact June McAleece on 01383 724992

Men's Breakfast Discussion Group – Meets once a month on a Saturday morning from September - May at 8.30am (see website or programme in the magazine for actual dates and/or contact Gordon Brown on 01577 840248)

Sunday Club & Crèche - Meet in the Church at 10.00am on Sundays during Morning Service, except during school holidays. Contact - Helen Webber on 01383 736486

JAM (Jesus And Me) CLUB –Meet Sundays in term time at 5.45pm - 7.15pm. Contact Linda Adamson on 01383 727719

Rainbows - Meet every Tuesday in the Rita Elder Hall at 6.15pm - 7.30pm Contact Anne Laird on 01383 727515

Brownies – 2nd Dunfermline Pack meet on Wednesdays in the Downstairs Hall 6.15pm - 7.45pm. Contact Susan Guild on 01383 727167

2nd Dunfermline Guides meet on Thursdays in term time, from 7.15-9.15pm. For more information, please contact Anne Simpson on 01383 410490 or 07972181351

BEAVERS - CUB SCOUTS - SCOUTS - EXPLORER SCOUTS

Meet in **the Scouts H.Q. Carron Grove**

Contact Keith Strachan on 01383 735399.

Beavers - Mondays 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Cubs - Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Scouts - Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Explorer Scouts - Thursdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm

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