

DUNFERMLINE  
ST MARGARET'S  
PARISH  
CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND



**WELCOME**  
**BACK**



## VIEW FROM THE MANSE

### **Staying Focussed**

It is very easy to lose touch. We have tried throughout this lockdown through various different means to keep people in touch with what the Church is doing and provide a spiritual focus even though there has been, up until recently, no possibility of us meeting together, in all of the different forms that meetings take place in church and not only for Sunday Worship.

I hope that the lockdown has taught us what to value. Has it been a wake up call? I know that it has for me. It has encouraged me to focus on what really matters – faith, hope and love, as the Apostle Paul puts it at the very end of that wonderful passage in 1 Corinthians 13.

**Faith.** Trusting ourselves, our present, our future, our families to God. Faith in the Person of Jesus Christ who is in essence our only **Hope**, in life and in death. Knowing that we are loved by God and in essence, when the chips are down and we face such uncertainty, **Love** is the beginning and end of all things.

Finally, could this be a time of renewal for all of us? To realise that our faith in God and the Good News is what matters most to us and that we recommit ourselves to both Him and it; that this is what our desperately helpless and vulnerable world needs more than anything else.

Iain Greenshields

### **The Church During Lockdown**

We have been forced during this remarkable period to look at how we communicate. I realised early on that we had to devise a way to communicate in such a way that the whole congregation was embraced – hence the weekly Newsletter. There has been nearly 30 weekly Newsletters gone out and this ensures that every member of the congregation is kept in contact with what is happening and had some kind of spiritual/faith focus over this period.

We already had a Facebook Page but it was hardly used. Within the first two or three weeks of lockdown we were able to produce some kind of Thought for the Week. This has developed into a Thought for the Day based on whatever book in the Bible we are using. About 90 people daily tune into Facebook and 120 on Sunday.

We have taken on Zoom! I have to say that I was apprehensive about this because it was out-with my knowledge and skill base. We now, though, have a “Zoom” account. We have held all of our essential leadership meetings on Zoom as well as a weekly service for the last 5 months – about 45 people at the height of the lockdown attended this service. That figure has dropped off to around 30 since the church has

opened up again. We will keep the Zoom service going for as long as it is needed – maybe it will become a permanent feature!

We have begun Church services at 11am every Sunday and this is attended by about 30 people – we can have up to 50, given the right circumstances. The service lasts about 45 minutes and is also livestreamed by going to YouTube and putting St. Margaret's Church of Scotland Dunfermline in the search box. Within 24 hours over 40 people are tuning in.

I think that we have learned that there will need from now on to be a “rainbow” of different ways of communicating in order that we reach as many as possible both within and out-with the church membership.

People have kept in touch with one another through Facebook, phone calls and appropriate visits. We have tried our best to keep contact with as many people as possible in a variety of ways.

If you can think of any innovative ways of doing things together then please let me know – all ideas will be greatly received.

Iain Greenshields

## **Our Finances**

It became obvious from the start that one of the big challenges facing St. Margaret's and the Church Nationally, was going to be finance. We feared that the loss of income would be so severe that it would be significantly detrimental to our future as a Church. Several things have prevented that from happening.

First of all, our expenditure has gone down – not dramatically, but enough to make a difference. Second, we asked that people in the congregation committed to regular direct giving and some have done this through posting cheques and others through direct giving through the bank – this has made a big difference, and thank you to everyone who, in whatever way, has financially supported the Church. Third, we ensured that a Tax Claim for Gift Aid went in every month just to keep our cash flow moving.

In the early Summer we received a very generous bequest from the estate of the late Bob Kerr. Bob was a sound and communications engineer during WW2, and the Session decided that part of his legacy should go to renewing the AV system in the church to ensure top quality sound and visuals both for Church services and livestream – this will be dedicated to his memory at an appropriate time. It also means that part of this legacy can be used to cover the deficit that we will face by the end of the year, which we feel might be in the region of 10% - depending on congregational giving and other potential forms of income, that figure may be less.

We thank God for His provision that we will be able to end this year financially intact and that bodes well for the future of the Church here in St. Margaret's in these

uncertain times and especially when all aspects of the life of the Church will come under scrutiny when deciding our potential future.

## **Main Article**

Salvation lies at the heart of the Christmas and Christian message. Salvation simply means that God saves us – he does for us something we would never be able to do for ourselves. He sends Jesus Christ, His Son to save us from our sins; the guilt, defilement, pollution and consequences of our sins and He also sends Christ to save us from the penalty of our sins – death: and does all of this through His Cross and Resurrection. Heavy, heady stuff, but such is its significance that the angels in Heaven rejoice at the declaration of His coming into the world! This is Good News, the Best News, the Greatest News the World could ever hear!

The idea of Salvation is no new thing – it is something that the Jewish people readily understood. When the Hebrew people were slaves in Egypt and God saved them. He took them from their bondage and miracle by miracle saved them from the Egyptians, finally establishing their future in the Promised Land. He is a God who saves; a God who turns the tables and helps us when it is impossible for us to help ourselves.

So, the name of Jesus means “God Saves.” The name given to Him indicates what He does; and does so completely and perfectly. No wonder the sky was filled with Heavenly Worship and Praise on the morning of His birth. Something great had begun though the world scarcely guessed it – angels were in on it, shepherds were in on it and a few people around that stable/cave in Bethlehem were in on it too!

The big question I want to put to us you this Christmas is, “Are you in on it?” Do you understand what God was doing that Christmas? Have you grasped what He was beginning? Do the words of John 3 verse 16 resonate personally for you? I am going to put it in personal language and paraphrase it and ask if you can affirm this personally – “I know that God loves me. How? Because He gave His one and only Son Jesus for me and because I believe in Him, I know that I will not perish, and I know I have eternal life?” Is that who we are? Is that greatest of all gifts in our possession? Do we know that that gift is nothing material, but a Person and a Promise?

The second question I want to put is this, “If we know all of this to be true and true personally of this, will it become our individual and corporate ambition to share this most wonderful news – this news that surpasses all other good news? How can we contain it?” How can we keep it to ourselves?

If this year has taught me anything, it is to reaffirm to my mind how desperately our world in all of its fragility, needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. May we not be silent but confident witnesses to the greatest event in the world.

Your Friend and Minister

## FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome back to the first edition of the magazine for quite a while. I do hope that you are all well and importantly keeping safe. As you probably know I have been asking for contributions and you have responded well so thanks for that – so much so I have kept back some for the next edition. I have tried to keep away from talking about the virus – I think we get enough of that each day on the tv and – and I did want this edition to cheer people up a bit and I think that has been achieved. At least I have had a good giggle! A variety of articles across the spectrum that has kept me busy sorting it all out. Add to that the fact that I had my laptop upgraded to include some new features – they always tell you that it is very simple to use the new features but I promise you I am still struggling with some! Have done enough to get this edition out using some of those features but a long way to go but I will now have some time to trial new aspects before the next edition is due to come out.

I must congratulate and thank Iain for keeping in touch with the congregation so well. The weekly news letter has been a great hit – I get nothing but praise for it from those I deliver to. Iain has also set up the Zoom and face book systems so people can join in services on a daily and weekly basis and I must say it has been good to get back into the church for the Sunday service. He certainly has been busy and on top of all that he unfortunately has had too many funerals to carry out which must be quite stressful for him. We are indeed fortunate to have a minister who is so committed to keeping the word of God alive and visit so many of us who are not feeling quite so good – a bit restrained from that due to the regulations especially when he would like to enter hospitals – I'm sure the nurses see him coming and barricade the doors! Thanks Iain and do take care and be safe

There is news on the trolley in the magazine – exciting news that has just got even better. Ally was telling me about the masses of goods that you have been donating to help those in real need and unfortunately we have too many of them in our Parish. Ally has a good idea of who needs what so he can be very specific of what is delivered to whom.

IN this edition we do of course cover Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. Do read the article from Janes Grieve on the Remembrance page – it follows on from his excellent piece last year. And perhaps due to restrictions we may be able to focus a bit more on what Christmas is all about and spare a bit more time thinking about the wonder of Jesus Christ coming into our world. Janet and I were going to go out with our daughter and her family to a restaurant (for the first time ever – normally at home) but as things are so fluid and uncertain we have cancelled that thought and are now having

**Christmas in our own homes. Again a first since I started to “go out” with Janet way back in 1956. Duncan and his family are on the south coast of England and we have had to cancel two trips down to see them because of the virus and we will not be going down this Christmas unless there is a sudden improvement. The last time we visited was Christmas last year and both Daniel and Ayla have come on in leaps and bounds. Although there is almost 2 years difference in age – Daniel being the elder of the two - Ayla is beginning to show as to who is going to be the boss! But we keep regularly in touch and there is a small weekly parcel goes down to the kids!**

**The scientists are talking of course about a vaccine for the virus and it may be available sooner than was first thought – but don’t hold your breath – it will come when it comes.**

**My sincere hopes that you do enjoy this magazine. Hope it cheers you up a bit and daft as it may sound but as this will be the last edition before Christmas, do please have a very happy ‘Christmas and just think about those who are not able to do so because of the circumstance under which they live and barely live. Please pray for them.**

**Keep well and be safe – and ;**

**REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

**Ross Kerr  
Editor.**

**IN MEMORY**  
**COLIN REITH CAMPBELL MacPHERSON**  
Minister of the Gospel, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, aged 89 years.

Our dear friend and minister of the Gospel, died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2020..He was 89 years of age. His life represented a connection across ages, and to a form of ministry that almost no longer exists in Scotland.

He was born in Edinburgh though his early life was centred in Aberdeen where he had fond memories of life with his grandparents and other relatives. A highlight of his childhood was being evacuated to the states with his mother to friends in Baltimore, while there he attended a tea party at the Whitehouse at the invitation of Mrs. Roosevelt. He used to say he felt very embarrassed being the only boy in a kilt.

Once back in Edinburgh he was sent to Merchiston school as a boarder, his experience there causing him to have an immense sense of loyalty to his alma mater. He loved Aberdeen university, where he attended next, and made many lifelong and loyal friends while there. Next step was Emmanuel College Cambridge to study ecclesiastical history. It was there that he developed a deep sense of liturgy and a love of the prayer book and liturgical order.

His return to Scotland saw him being ordained as assistant minister at the Old Parish in Ayr. From there he flew solo when he was inducted to Inverurie West Parish. His years there allowed him to reconnect with Aberdeen life and the traditional ministry of a small burgh. There he was faithfully served by housekeepers who sustained his life because Colin had no domestic skills whatsoever. Those who ever visited his flat will know exactly what this meant. Further moves saw him serve the Kirk in Fife, with a particularly long ministry in Dunfermline.

In both work and retirement Colin enjoyed a richly varied life- chaplaincy, church history society, multiple choirs, German lessons, the list could go on. Throughout all this was the constancy of good friends from across the generations. Also constant was his alertness and memory. In the parish these served him in good stead. If you were a minister, though, Colin's memory and ability to recall had another effect. Every few years there is published an updated history of the ministers of the church, it's known as "Fasti" from the opening word of its Latin title. As a minister you soon realised that Colin was a living breathing version of it – he knew all the stories, published or otherwise.



**Colin was passionate about many things, but people were always most important. He could be erudite and entertaining, self assured and humble. At all times he was good company.**

**Maintaining good health until near the end, he missed the increasing number of his friends who had joined the saints ahead of him. He would comfort himself with recitations, from memory, of swathes of the prayer book. From beginning to the end this was a man of faith.**

**AMEN**

**(Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic we have so far only been able to hold a service of committal for Colin. Our hope is that once all restrictions are eventually lifted that we will be able to join together to hold a more fitting memorial service in the church.)**

**(The above was included in the Reid Memorial Church magazine and I knew there would be many of you that would like to see this. The words above surely describe a man with a very special talent and with such a strong faith. I am obliged to Ritchie for obtaining this for me. Iain will try to arrange a memorial service for Colin in St. Margaret's when conditions allow. Ed)**



## REMEMBRANCE

Another year slips away and remembrance day comes around again. Not that this is the only time that many of us think about those that gave their lives for us – but it is a day when the country joins to-gether to remember as one. I don't know about you but I was enthralled with the number of programmes that were shown on the anniversary of the Battle of Britain when the “few” saw of the “many” . Excited, emotional and a huge heart that said “thank you” many times over.

This year I would suggest that we have more “heroes” to add to the list in the fight of a completely new and different enemy. I of course refer to the virus that has struck so hard – not only in this country but throughout the world. It has taken many lives,, it is an enemy that we cannot see, it creeps up on the most unsuspecting of us. But true to the spirit of the British people we have fought back as best we can. We have front line “troops” that have risked their own lives to help others and in doing so many of their own lives were lost. So we have a new army to add to the list of those that we remember and give thanks for. May God bless them and their families.

In Flanders field the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce hears amid the guns below

We are the dead, short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

## **REMEMBRANCE (cont)**

### **WE SHALL KEEP THE FAITH**

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep[ sweet – to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With all who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valour led,  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honour of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught:  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.

(this poem is by Moina Michael and was written in November 2018. Having first read the “In Flanders Field” on the previous page this is a follow up to what was written in that poem. Ed)

The next page is an article submitted by James Grieve – one of our members. You may recall that last year he submitted an article that told of his search for his Uncle who was shot down in the Netherlands in WW11. He was indeed successful and visited his grave. James did not however stop there. As you will see from the article on the next page he did more searching and the story he tells is indeed quite remarkable and emotional. Well done James and thanks for sharing this story with us.  
Ed.



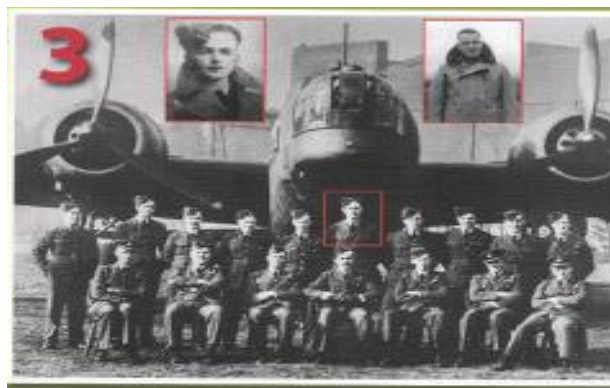
## We will remember them.

In March last year I made a trip to the Netherlands, this was visit the grave of my Uncle Sergeant James Dempsey a Wireless operator / Air Gunner with 115 Squadron. Bomber Command Royal Air Force. This year just as the Covid Pandemic was taking a grip on the UK I managed a visit to RAF Marham in Norfolk. This was where 115 Squadron were based and where on the 2nd August 1940 the raid that would take his life and that of the other members of the flight crew of his Wellington Bomber with the call sign R3202 started.

RAF Marham is still an operational air base so is not open to the public, but there is an aviation heritage centre in the village which covers the history of RAF Marham and the important role it has played in the from 1916 to the present day, so that is where my visit was to take me. I arrived at the heritage centre carrying with me my Uncles name, service No and the call sign of his plane. Inside the centre had a lot of items on display covering First and Second World wars the cold war, Falklands, Gulf war up to present day operations.

My expectations were that I would be able to have a quiet and quick look round and probably find a list of aircraft lost with crews killed or taken prisoners of war. As I waited to sign in one of the volunteers who man the centre asked if he could assist and if I was looking for anything in particular, I gave him the information that I had brought with me about my uncles last flight and thought that he would take me to the section regarding the second world war, I was in for a big shock! There were two large display boards about this flight, A search had been made at first light by 115 Squadron crew this search shows the high regard that they held for this crew. There were photos one of which a group shot which includes all the non-commissioned crew of Wellington R3203, James Dempsey is top left. In 2015 a Memorial was erected dedicated with a service in the Netherlands, this was attended by Serving personnel from RAF Marham and some relatives of the crew that had perished. Most of the information has been put together by a Dutch historian Marjo Steveimans.

My intentions are now to send copies of all the documents that I have concerning my Uncle James down to the Heritage centre and to have a plaque placed on the wall in the memorial garden beside plaques for some of the other flight crew members. Photos below are of my uncle James and with consent of the Heritage Centre the Group shot of R3202, James Dempsey is highlighted top Left.



This year Remembrance will probably be low key but people will do what they can in order that those who lost their lives to preserve the freedoms that we have are not forgotten.

James Dempsey Waddell Grieve

## **“THE OLD RABBIT”**

*Written by 8 year old Lenny Tucker – winner of this year’s BBC short story competition*

Patrick the rabbit was very sad. He was very old, his fur was grey on his paws and around his mouth and his bones were aching. His baby rabbits had all grown up and moved away and had bunnies of their own. His Mum and Dad had died many years ago and he missed talking to them. But most of all he missed his lovely wife, Pearl, all the time.

Patrick was also fed up of running from the mean farmer who was always chasing him with his gun. He never dug holes any more and he only ate the carrots easy to dig up these days.

Today it was raining and grey, the sky was black and the grass muddy and wet. It was really windy and cold so Patrick decided to hide in the barn until the rain stopped before he went looking for carrots.

As Patrick dried off from the rain he drifted off to sleep. Patrick woke up later feeling very warm, he could see the bright sunshine coming through the walls of the barn and he could hear other rabbits “chilli, chilli” chat coming from outside.

Patrick started to creep outside. His bones felt light and he noticed the fur on his paws was a lovely brown colour, like they used to be. Patrick’s bones didn’t ache and he didn’t feel sad, but he didn’t know why.

Outside he noticed the grass was so green it didn’t look real – it almost sparkled. It was so soft it felt like he was walking on green clouds! And there were piles of carrots everywhere – with no mud on them – he wouldn’t even have to dig them up or wash them. Then he saw a little way away, under a tree, there was a group of about fifty rabbits all whispering and smiling and watching him.

Suddenly, he saw a beautiful lady rabbit step forward and walk towards him with her arms open and crying. Patrick gasped – and nearly swallowed his little rabbit tongue! It was Pearl, his wife. He ran to her and kissed her all over her face and he cried too. And he said to Pearl – “I have missed you so much my love” – and she cuddled him so tight and whispered in his ear – “I have been waiting a long time for you Patrick.”

He then realised he recognised the shapes and voices of the rabbits standing nearby, all watching him and smiling – it was his mum and dad; his aunties and uncles and even his Nan and Granddad. He looked at Pearl dazed and she smiled and said – “they have been waiting too.”

Patrick was so happy but so confused. As he cried with happiness into Pearl’s fur he whispered – “Pearl I am so happy I feel like I am in heaven.” To which Pearl replied with a smile – “my wonderful Patrick, you are.”

*Footnote: This story moved the judges of the competition to tears. No wonder. Gordon Brown (reader)*

## KNITTERS – WE NEED YOU



### KNITTING PATTERNS FOR CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Iain has come up with a great idea of setting up pick up points for knitted Christmas Angels around the parish. No – he has not taken up knitting but he did approach June McAleece who contacted others and there has been a sudden appearance of knitted angels in the church. However many more are required and the following is a simple guide from June as to how – so please join the club of angels::

What do you need –

Double knitting wool – scraps will work well. You can also get low cost yarns at the pound shop or B&Ms

Size 3.5 or 4mm needles]

Darning needle

Small amount of stuffing (old cushions are great to reuse stuffing.)

The pattern – angel body

Cast on 48 stitches

1. Knit (K)
2. Purl (P)
3. K2 tog, K10\* repeat to end of row
4. Purl
5. Knit
6. P2 tog, P9\* repeat to end
7. Knit
8. Purl
9. K2 tog, K8\* repeat to end
10. Purl
11. Knit
12. P2 tog. ALREADY HAVE A CHIR OF , P7\* repeat to end
13. Knit
14. Purl
15. K2 tog, K6\* repeat to end
16. Purl
17. Knit
18. P2 tog, P5\* repeat to end
19. Knit
20. Purl
21. K2 tog K4\* repat to end
22. Purl
23. Knit
24. Purl
25. Knit
26. Purl
27. Knit
- ....At this point you can change colour for face
28. Purl
29. Knit
30. Purl
31. Knit
32. Purl
33. Knit
- 34 PURL

**35 K2 tog, repeat to end**

**36 Purl**

**37 Knit**

**38 P2 tog, repeat to end**

**To make up: thread yarn through stitches and tighten to create the top of the head. Turn angel inside out and sew body and head. Turn to right side add a small amount of stuffing. Thread yarn between stitches (running stitch)- pull yarn tight.**

**Angel Wings – cast on 27 stitches**

**1. Knit**

**2. Knit**

**3. Knit 2 tog. And start and end of row**

**4. Knit**

**5. Knit 12 rows decreasing at each end, Cast off**

**IT' S AS EASY AS THAT FOLKS**

**MANY THANKS TO JUNE McALEECE**

**(Ed)**



## Life on Furlough

As many of you may know, or have probably figured out, I have been on government advised 'time off' (furlough) for the last 5 or 6 months. So, as I've not been working and Ross has asked me to do something, I didn't really have any excuses!

When the unprecedented lockdown was announced, I suffered the same fear and anxiety many were experiencing, what does this mean for my job? How will I pay bills? How was the virus going to affect family and friends etc. And while not necessarily a fan of Boris and his mates, the furlough scheme, securing at least 80% of my wages, was a huge weight off my, and many others shoulders. So, content I would have food in my belly, and a roof over my head, this left me strangely excited for my time off, and with a head full of ideas of how to spend my time, unfortunately my fiancé (will get to that later) Ayla had different ideas.

Our first task was to tackle our much-neglected garden. With no where to go, and nothing but time on our hands, we donned the gardening gear and set about our task. Thankfully (I suppose), the bottom half of our garden was an overgrown mess, with weeds everywhere, a shed in need of some serious TLC, a dilapidated greenhouse and no real idea what we were doing were doing, we started cleaning out the mess. As our project continued, we quickly realised that this lockdown was not going away any time soon. Starting to miss the pub, and our friends, we decided our Garden would become a Beer Garden. Given Ayla's creative flair, she took point on the operation, and using nothing but old wooden pallets and some hard work, we had created a lovely outside space to enjoy the sunshine of summer and a few (many) well-earned Beers.

The rest of our lockdown was spent, I assume, the way many others were: doing odd jobs around the house, re decorating, going out for walks, overindulging in Food and drink and watching an obscene amount of terrible TV. Thankfully, we had each other, and when not driving each other nuts, it was nice to be able to spend some proper time together, as our busy work and social lives do not always make that possible!

Despite trying to make the best of bad situation, we found out late in May, that our planned trip to Florida for Disneyland and Universal Studios, had been cancelled, something we had been looking forward to for over a year. This was a double blow, as Ayla loves all things Disney, I saw this as my perfect opportunity to pop the question. Now, I was back to square one.

Not having a romantic bone in my body, I was panicking, my plan was ruined, and I had no idea what I was going to do. However, I was about to get lucky. When out on a walk Ayla had mentioned to me that she had always wanted the Disney Castle Lego set. Bingo! If we could not go to Disneyland, I'd bring Disneyland to her!

So on September 19<sup>th</sup>, I popped the question, thankfully she said yes, and made 2020 a year to remember for us, for the right reasons!

As I write this, things still remain uncertain, and just as we thought life was getting back to normal it seems the second wave is here. So all I'll say is, I hope this article finds you all well, and I look forward to seeing everyone again when possible!

Ally

**The much loved garden and remains of the greenhouse  
The much loved Disney display.**



Ayla loves all things Disney!



## Community Trolley

*As lockdown progressed, I was starting to hear stories of real hardship, people losing income and in many cases support networks that they had come to rely on. This thought always lingered in the back of my mind, all this work we've undertaken to engage with the community and the people in our parish, and in a time of such need we are not in a position to help. The longer I spent away from the Church the more I distanced myself from this problem, "There is nothing we can do, we're in lockdown", I'd say, and that was it, until, some divine intervention. A phone call from Rosslyn asking if I'd attached a trolley to front railing of the Church. I had not. Nor the Rev. Nor anyone else. A mystery, but a welcome one. Over the next few days, dribs and drabs of food started appearing in the trolley, word started to spread, and very quickly we realised that we had to nurture and grow this initiative. The project has grown exponentially since, thanks in no small part to the generosity our congregation. To date we have received over £2500, not to mention a huge haul of food from our thanksgiving service! So, before we go any further, a massive thank you to all who have contributed. These donations have made sure many adults and children are not going hungry, or without heat and hot water.*

*I am also pleased to say the feedback from the community has been fantastic. We have endeavoured to make this as hassle-free project with a human touch. Unlike many other projects which have attempted (and failed) which are demeaning and require a wealth of information, and record keeping, we provide help to those who need, easily accessible and limited human interaction. Having experience of how the welfare systems work, especially some food projects, what we provide has grown into something significantly different to anything else on offer, at a fraction of the cost. Considering this started off completely by chance, it could quickly turn into a project that defines our engagement in the community! Going forward, we have applied for funding, and have had some pretty encouraging responses as this ties in nicely for a lot of funding opportunities for 'food poverty', many of these funds open up again in January so fingers crossed.*

*In the meantime if anyone is willing to contribute, time, money or food please get in contact. Stockwell tinned goods from Tesco are the cheapest on the market if looking to donate food. Thanks again for your ongoing support!*



Ally



**AND HERE IS THE VERY HAPPY COUPLE - THE NEWLY ENGAGED  
AYLA AND ALISTAIR.MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH  
FROM US ALL AT St.MARGARET's**



## WHAT I DID DURING THE LOCKDOWN

You may recall that I did suggest that you might let us all know what you did during the lockdown. Well two brave souls have done just that and I hope you enjoy the following.

Ian Hamilton

Should you ever visit Ian in his home you will be met by a flotilla of boats, ships and all kinds of sailing craft. Ian has spent his time building boats and ships - and these are not just toys - they are very well built crafts, some of them with motors. You have to actually need to see them to really appreciate how accurate the detail is and how well they have been constructed. He has built up a navy of 30 ships and boats, the one he has just finished is a French Battleship. The above is only one example and this in fact is the ship that JACQUES COUSTEAU used all those years ago when we all learned so much about what goes on under the sea - he being the first really to focus just on the life under the sea. Just thinking that perhaps the younger readers will not have seen these programmes but I am sure some of my generation certainly will!! Great job Admiral Ian - keep us from danger from the sea!! (Ed)



## WHAT I DID DURING THE LOCKDOWN (cont)

### Shopping Adventure

I must confess that I am not a very patient person. With the introduction of new Covid measures, queues have become common place at shops and supermarkets on entry. I loath queues in fact, I would often replace an item and leave a shop, rather than wait in a line. One day however, I was quite glad there was one.

After successfully completing my purchases at a local supermarket, I was exiting the building when a sudden gust of wind launched the light objects at the top of my trolley and sent them flying. Multi packets of crisps took flight in different directions. The multi pack of toilet paper, (I was purchasing it for someone else I assure you) fell out the trolley, burst open on the ground sending toilet rolls bouncing and rolling joyously in the wind. It happened so fast I had no time to react or capture my escaping groceries. People passing leapt up and made catches which basketball players would envy. The queue took position and fielded the bouncing toilet rolls. Quite frankly I was mortified! It did break the ice and everyone kindly returned my shopping to me to transport it safely from the gate into the car. I think they enjoyed the gymnastics – shoppers got a light workout while waiting to enter and helped me out too.

### Holiday

This August I had the pleasure of holidaying in a caravan at Berwick on Tweed. The week prior to our holiday was amazing. Typical I cannot complain about our mixed bag of weather as we explored, got to the beach and visited the town itself. The children did not care if it was raining as they were getting soaked in the water and getting clarted up with sand every day. I would like to share with you an image I have from my holiday. To my lasting regret, I did not have a camera at the time. How I would have loved to be able to show it when they were all grown up and see their reaction. It came about because of the usual holiday spending money for the grandchildren. OK it was my fault. Of course, as soon as they know they have money to spend, it has to be spent! Well, my grandson Keiran had the idea of getting a snorkel kit with goggles. He was so excited I thought he was going to explode. His Dad is very laid back and opened it for him as requested once they completed their purchases and left the shop. I would have told him to wait till we got back home. As soon as he was outside Keiran was wearing his goggles and snorkel. There he was, in the sun, walking through Berwick High Street and the shops wearing goggles and snorkel in the shops with the snorkel in his mouth I thought it was hilarious! Not a soul batted an eyelid. With the Covid precautions and the new range



and variety of face covering, no one thought it was out of place. With the snorkel in his mouth, it had the advantage of keeping him quiet. Once we returned to the beach, Keiran was straight into the water with his new goggles and snorkel, Not to swim – he simply stood in the water, bent in half and stuck his head under the water. As he saw a minnow or a baby crab, he would stand up, remove the snorkel and give us a running commentary of what he saw. His purchase not only gave him a lot of pleasure, I enjoyed watching him. It was a real treat.

(From Corinne Keatings – be very careful Corinne the next time you let him go shopping – you never know what he might come back with!! Thanks. Ed)





## *J.A.M. Club- Keeping in touch!*

*Although we have not been able to meet as usual during these past months our aim has been to maintain the good connection and relationships built with our members. In order to achieve this, newsletters and cards accompanied with small gifts have been delivered to each child.*

*Birthdays are special events for children....since March these happy times have had to be celebrated in very different ways! So, the JAM team has continued to deliver a card and gift to the "birthday person" on their special day. The children and their families have appreciated these things and several people commented on how much they valued the efforts made by our church to keep in contact during such difficult times.*

*Our young people have been (and continue to be) remarkable! They seem able to adapt and cope with change much better than many of us expected....another blessing. Naturally, our aim has been to encourage everyone to follow the guidance given in order to keep themselves and others safe. Having said this, it's been important to try to remain positive. The article which follows hopefully demonstrates this approach- it's part of our most recent communication to JAM Club members.*



*“Every day may not be good but there is good in every day.”*

## *J.A.M. Newsletter*

*Hello again! It's been a wee while since we've been in touch but please don't think that means you've been forgotten. It's been a strange time for all of us and everyone has had to make changes to their way of life. Some changes have been really hard-like not meeting up with friends for a while or giving a hug to people we love, if they have been shielding. Many people have felt a bit "down" because of these things.*



*So, I thought I would tell you about what I heard a friend say-it made me think in a very different way! She said, "I wonder what we'll remember about this time. Will we think of all the difficult things, for example the places we couldn't visit and how uncomfortable it was to wear face masks?" She went on to tell us how much she'd enjoyed spending time baking with her children, playing games with them and going for long walks.....she hoped her family would recall these things in the future. Very happy, wonderful times!*

*Jim and I thought we would follow her example and talked about the good things we have seen during the past months.*

- We've noticed people being kinder....helping one another without expecting anything in return.*
- Everyone now appreciates the NHS far more, knowing that many doctors and nurses risk their own lives to help others.*
- Many people are being more generous....for example, giving food to people in need.*
- We've seen notices in house windows saying "THANKS TO ALL KEY WORKERS!" The postmen, people who empty our bins, those who deliver food to keep the shelves in shops filled (and many more)....all these people are now valued much more.*

*It's a list that could go on! So, even though we have to accept different ways of doing things...try to think about the good things in your life as well as the challenges. Remember that others are thinking of you, caring about you and praying for you. St Margaret's church building may have had to close its doors for a while....but it has **never** stopped trying to help and support people.*



*Churches (and other places of worship) are now allowed to open again. This is great news but many things have had to be done before we could safely return. The church has been having a "deep clean" and lots of careful planning is happening to make sure everyone is kept as safe as possible....much the same as your school has been made ready for your return. At the moment, I can't tell you when our activities for young people will resume but I'll do so as soon as it's possible. Till then, take care and continue to keep safe.*

*Love and blessings to you and your family  
From*

*Linda*

*on behalf of the JAM Team and everyone in your church family  
at St Margaret's XXX*



A page for the young (or the young at heart) to colour  
We'd love to see the result, so if you hand your finished effort back to Linda Adamson you  
will receive a Christmas treat! (Contact details on the back please.)



You might like to add more details eg. another angel.....more animals.....extra  
stars....another shepherd....or perhaps the inn far in the background?

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **The Church Badminton Group**

The members of the Wednesday morning badminton group are very much missing playing our weekly games.

We had managed to meet for coffee at Garvock House Hotel for a few weeks, which was a lovely way to keep in touch. However, Covid restrictions no longer allow it.

Obviously, we very much look forward to returning to play badminton in the church and hope the church will allow the badminton group to continue after the current restrictions are removed.

(hope you are all keeping fit in the meantime Sheila Ed)

### **2<sup>ND</sup> DUNFERMLINE RAINBOW AND BROWNIES**

A week or two before lockdown, Girl guiding made the decision that we should stop meeting to prevent the disease spreading. Then lockdown began.

Thankfully due to technology we were in regular contact with the girls (or their parents/guardians) who choose to continue with a lovely badge started when we could meet named “come rain or Shine” which appropriately displayed a rainbow.

Parents/Guardians sent us images of the girls building volcanoes, cooking pancakes on tin cans with candles, completing assault courses to name a few. A number of Brownies have also completed challenge badges like growing their own food, charity and mindfulness.

Lately we have been e mailing all girls with a weekly challenge of a Scavenger hunt around their homes, creating a yummy animal toasted sandwich or decorated biscuit.

The response from parents/guardians is that the child is enjoying the challenges and missing Rainbows/Brownies , so fingers crossed we will be able to have some sort of face to face meeting soon

Helen.

(Sounds as if you are keeping them all busy Helen-well done. Ed)

## Choice

In the past weeks Iain has given us a number of choices to consider in this uncertain time of lockdown.

Complacency v Contentment

Superstition v Habit

Rest v Inactivity

Each of the foregoing set me thinking about choice and how various choices have and can still affect our everyday lives. How easy it would have been in the period of lockdown and even now in the restricted “new normal” to drift from contentment into a state of complacency or from rest to inactivity. Why would you walk under a ladder when clearly it is safer to walk round it? Is this superstition, habit or simply common sense? Choices and more choices.

Choices can be made either consciously or unconsciously, sometimes without regard to the consequences, either intended or unintended. Choice is a fact of life and we require to make choices each and every day.

When we were young our parents made choices or decisions for us but we then started to make our own choices, considering the options available to us. Some of these choices have, or have had a very long lasting impact on our lives, in fact on reflection these choices can remain with us for the rest of our lives. Should we have gone to college, did we choose the right career or job? It has been said

“the present is a gift and we need to make the most of it”

Looking back we can question some of the choices we have made, did we choose the correct career or job and did we do our best, could we have done more for ourselves and others in the past?

We cannot change the past but we can learn from it.

Choices are the building blocks of our lives and despite all the mistakes we have made, a new day brings new opportunities and a whole range of new choices so there is still time to refrain from being complacent, superstitious or inactive and make more informed choices. Iain was no doubt guiding us in a certain direction in these past weeks but the final choice remains ours and ours alone albeit with guidance and assistance.

The choice is still ours to make.

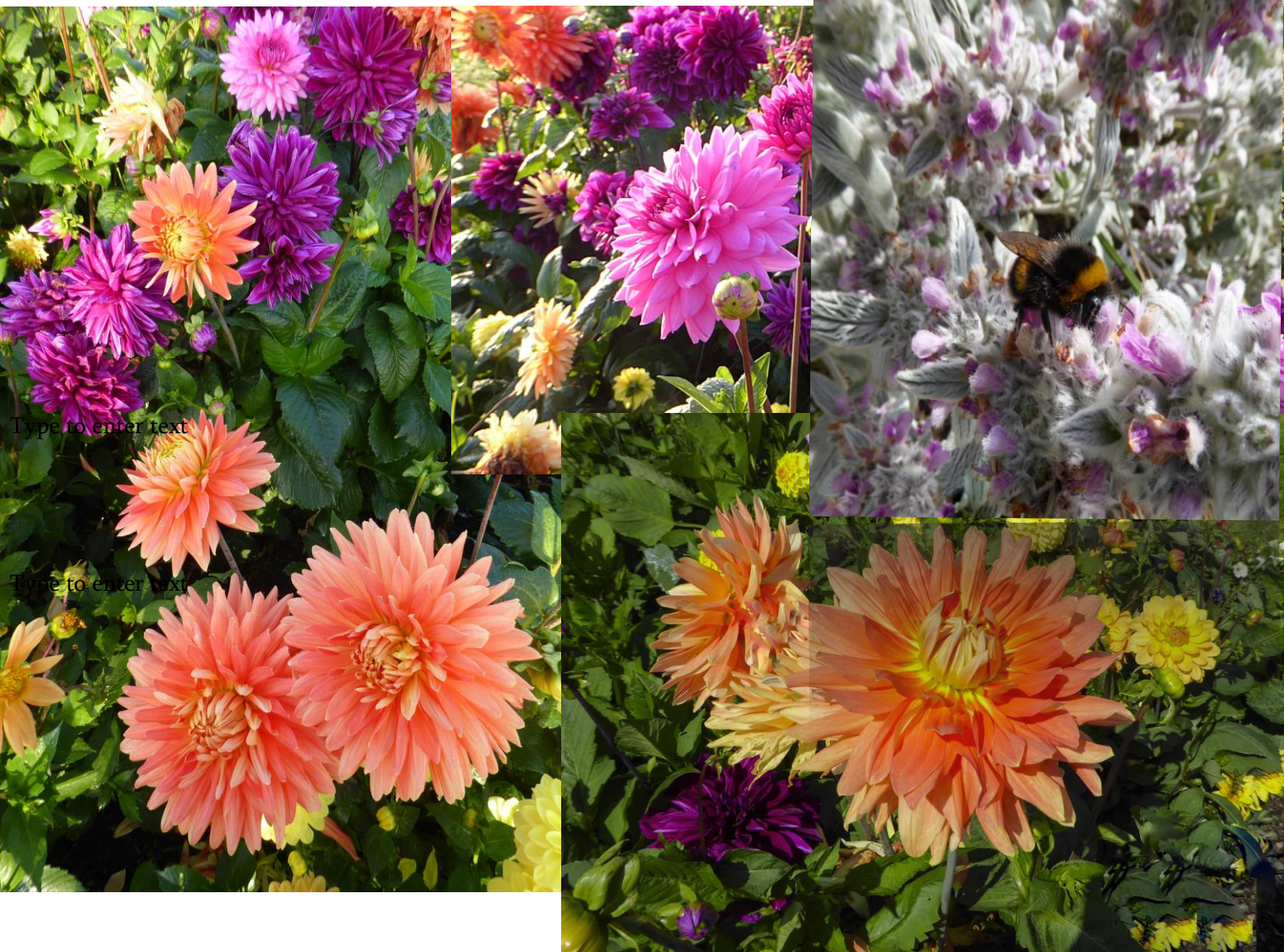
ANON



# OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY GARDEN

(please see thank you page for more information)

FOR ALL TO ADMIRE  
(can you all find the Bee





**QUOTES TO PONDER.....**

“Ageing is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been.”

.....

“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they will never sit.”

.....

“It is so much darker when a light goes out than it would have been if it had never shone.”

.....

“Change is the law of life and those that look only to the past and present, are certain to miss the future”

.....

Challenging situations are a part of life. When you are faced with one, focus on the good things no matter how small or seemingly insignificant they seem. If you look for it you can always find the proverbial silver lining in every cloud.

.....

When LIFE gets too hard to stand, KNEEL.

.....

Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the comfort of thought.

.....

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

.....

.....And to take what you can or want from them.

## **A Visit to the Japanese Garden**

### **Sha Raku En**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September turned out to be a beautiful sunny day which proved to be a real bonus as we had arranged to visit the Japanese Garden near Dollar on that day.

We had arranged the visit along with some friends (NOT a group as we all arranged to book our tickets individually and walked round the garden suitably distanced.)

The Garden is at Cowden Castle near Dollar and was established by a Lady named Ella Christie, an explorer who had visited Tibet, India, Burma, China, Korea, Japan, Russia, Turkestan and Khiva in modern Uzbekistan, all solo expeditions taken between 1904 and 1912.

Between expeditions she transformed her home at Cowden Castle with artefacts acquired during her travels but it was her trip to Japan which inspired her Garden Project. She had been inspired by her visits to the gardens and flowers of Kyoto and Tokyo as well as her walking tour round Mount Fuji and decided to create her own Japanese style Garden. From the very beginning she involved experienced Japanese gardener designers, the first of these being Taki Handa from the Royal School of Garden Design in Nagoya, a female pioneer in her field. She was later described by Professor Fukuhara as the first and only woman to have designed a Japanese Garden of this nature.

Gardeners may be interested to learn that in 2013 Professor Masao Fukuhara from Osaka University of Arts was appointed to restore the Garden. Professor Fukuhara is best known as a Gold Medal winner at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Entering the Gardens through the Welcome Gate you immediately become aware of the Ochil Hills and the large pond which forms the central part of the Garden. All around are the Japanese structures, the Zig Zag bridge, the Rest House and the Dry Garden. The Dry Garden represents the water flowing east into the pond and the raked patterns the ripples within the moving water. Other features include the various lanterns.

The Zig Zag bridge, the Yatsunashi Bridge, represents the complex journey of our lives. Crossing the Bridge takes you to the island of perpetual youth and the Arched Bridge then transports us from the enchanted island to the next life. The curve of the Arched Bridge is significant as we cannot see the other side of the bridge before we start our journey and are therefore unaware of our final destination.

Walking round the pond on such a beautiful day enables you to appreciate the wonderful reflections in the water as well as the Cherry Trees, the Acers and other plants.

A great day out, so good in fact that after a coffee in the grounds we walked round for a second time.

The Gardens were named by Ella Christie as

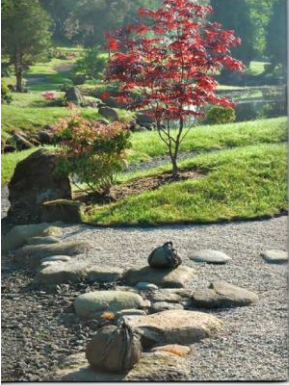
**SHA RAKU EN**

**The place of pleasure and delight.**

In 1925 the Gardens were described as being the “Most important Japanese Gardens in the World”

We will certainly go back for another visit.

TRC



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## **POET'S CORNER**

### **BACK THEN**

*In my mind's eye I can go back in time  
The best way to do it is put it in rhyme  
To tell how it was all those years ago  
When life was much simpler and living seemed slow*

*We were brought up believing that respect was a must  
To show good manners at all times would gain other's trust  
Your word was your bond and made you who you are  
Looking up to your elders with admiration from afar*

*We made our own fun and played lots of games  
Like kick the can, hide and seek to mention a few names  
Money was scarce so we made our own toys  
Bows and arrows, slingshots and marbles for boys*

*The girls played pollybeds and skipped with their ropes  
We made our own sledges and sped down the slopes  
Never dull moment without Telly or phones  
No plastic cards or trying to keep up with Mrs. Jones*

### **FATE**

*My father was a miner and his five brothers too  
When I left school at fifteen it seemed the right thing to do  
Down the pit like Dad to follow the Family trait  
Getting paid to work! No school! I couldn't wait*

*Alas fate took a hand, my plans were changed, my Mother had her say  
"He is not going down any pit not tomorrow or today  
A trade is what he needs it will last him all his life  
He will never be out of work when the Mines have gone from Fife*

*It came to pass when I left school in nineteen fifty nine  
Never looked back from then till now and good fortune has been mine  
My trade has been a painter and I have loved every year  
Fifty six in all, a long and happy career.*

*Goodness knows how much paint I've used I really could not tell  
Rolls of paper bags of filler, paste and turps as well  
My Mother was very wise that day when she saw the road ahead  
The pits had no future, the coal mines were all but dead.*

*I thank her for the choice she made, I have had a happy life  
The Decorating Trade will never die not like the pits in Fife  
(Both of the above are by Leunam Draisaig – Ill leave you to work that out! Ed.)*

## **POET'S CORNER (cont)**

***When the world was formed of land and sea  
There was no sign of you and me  
Animals, birds and all sort of creatures  
Mountains, rivers with all sorts of features***

***God was pleased with everything he saw  
Sheer perfection without a flaw  
His creation His master plan  
The final piece, the making of man,***

***The first was Adam and his wife Eve  
They lived in a garden never needing to leave  
Life was serene with nothing to fear  
No unhappiness no sign of a tear.***

***They had no knowledge of Sin, an innocent pair  
Until Satan appeared to lay down his snare  
Eve was tempted by his cunning plea  
A special tree in the garden set sin free***

***She tasted the fruit of the tree and persuaded Adam as well  
They then knew the difference between Heaven and Hell  
God was not happy and cast them out of his sight  
Having to find another way of doing things right***

***Now thousands of years have rolled by and God has watched  
from above  
Still not forgotten us we are still blessed by his love  
He will forgive us for all the sins we have done  
By sacrificing his only Beloved Son.***

***Believe in Him and change your life it is the only way  
Learn how to love Jesus, learn how to pray  
The way the World is now with all its struggle and strife  
Come to Him now and receive Eternal Live.***

***(another from Leunam Draisaig and one that resonates certainly in my mind.  
There is no title to this one and I think that is quite correct – it leaves each of  
us to make our own minds up as to what title would fit your situation. – Ed)***

## POET'S CORNER (CONT)

### THE VIRUS

As this virus continues and we are all locked down  
No trips to the cinema and no coffee in town  
The basic things we take for granted are kept on hold  
We must take heed and do as we are told

When loved ones are separated and no signs of decline  
That's when you can lose faith and think "Please God not one of mine"  
It wounds very selfish but easy to say  
Could it be to-morrow? Could it be to-day

All we can do is be patient and wait  
Stick to the rules before it is too late  
Look after each other and help when we can  
The only alternative is the slow decline of man.

Now if you look to the Bible you will see in black and white  
There is only two ways of doing things one is wrong and the other is right  
The world will always have its problems no matter what we do  
The only way is to trust in God and he will see us through

The virus will eventually die you wait and see  
Then we can come together and be completely free  
This has been a time when  
People have been at their best  
I think God used it as a human test

Do good deeds for each other and share what we have  
Deliver food to the needy no one needs to starve  
What we should have learned in this sad sequel  
No matter how rich or poor we are equal

That's how God wanted it to be it was his original plan  
When Satan set that fateful trap that turned the head of man  
Since then History is full of dreadful deeds to others  
Fathers fighting Sons and brothers fighting brothers

The only way for redemption and forgiveness for what we have done  
Was for God to send his one and only beloved Son  
He died on a wooden cross and took the burden on his head  
After three days in a tomb God raised him from the dead

He is now on high with his Father and waits to come back again  
Nobody knows the time nobody knows when.

Leunam Dralsaug (I think you will agree that these poems by Leunam are quite outstanding  
- he is a member of St Margaret's!!). Ed.)

## **CHRISTMAS.**

**I know you will think I have lost my marbles talking about Christmas in the magazine already. However, this will be the last magazine before Christmas, and I wanted to include this. Anyway, the shops have been talking about Christmas for weeks now!**

**There is not a lot to tell you of course as all entertainment in the church is “banned” under the regulations. What is not banned however is the real reason we celebrate Christmas. This is the day that Jesus was born and perhaps at times over the years a lot of people have forgotten all about that message and focus on the materialistic. I know however that the readers of this magazine will not forget and will join with Christians all over the world to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and put aside some time to give thanks. Again, this year will be different – as I write this the regulation state that we cannot visit relations in their homes, but I do hope that the virus will have a holiday by then and allow us to celebrate with family. Should the rules not change please do not lose heart – the message of Christmas is still there, and you should take great heart from that – and do please contact each other by telephone or whatever other technical devises you have. Just think once the virus has gone, we will all be able to get together and celebrate Christmas all over again. with family! Trust me, know how you feel – Janet and I have not seen our Grandchildren, who live on the south coast of England, since Last Christmas and it does hurt.**

**Please do accept my best wishes for a good Christmas – do not let this virus spoils it for you.**

**Ross (Ed)**

**Please see the next page for some notices.**



## CHRISTMAS (cont)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SCOUT CHRISTMAS CARDS DELIVERY THIS YEAR. THIS OF COURSE IS DUE TO THE VIRUS AND THE SCOUTS VERY MUCH REGRET THEY HAVE HAD TO MAKE THIS DECISION.**

**HOWEVER  
THE GOOD NEWS IS ,THAT IT IS THE INTENTION TO START UP AGAIN NEXT YEAR (CHRISTMAS 2021)**



### Christmas Fundraising!

As you will be aware, we are living in uncertain times-it's impossible to plan and organise our usual Christmas

Fare due to ever-changing legislation which is necessary to keep us all safe. However, now is a time for "thinking outside the box." So please be assured that the

St Margaret's Think-Tank is on the case!

Lots of ideas are being discussed and we'll let you know as soon as possible how (and when) you will be able to participate in supporting our church in the lead up to

Christmas.

## **CHRISTMAS (CONT)**

### **THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA**

**The story is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to give to the Christ Child on Christmas Eve. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her brother her heart was sad.**

**“I am sure even the most humble gift if given in love will be acceptable in His eyes” her brother told her.**

**Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds into a bouquet. As she approached the alter to lay the gift by the Nativity scene, she remembered her brother’s words.**

**Suddenly, as she laid them down, the weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red and green. All who saw were sure they had witnessed a Christmas miracle. From that day on the bright red flowers were known as**

**“The flower of the Holy Night”**

**Because they bloomed every year during the Christmas season.**

**Today the name of the flower is  
The Poinsettia.**

**Be filled with the wonder  
And touched by the Peace of this season.**

**(Not sure who handed this to me – but I really do appreciate this little note. Was not aware of this at all and I am quite sure it will be new to some of you as well. Thank you. Ed)**



Friends of Queen Margaret Hospital

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The Friends of Queen Margaret Hospital will not be holding  
the 'Christmas Fair'

this year due to the restrictions within the hospital.

However, we are still

keen to support the hospital by trying to be innovative with  
our fund raising

for patients and staff. To this end we are having a  
virtual/online 'Fair'.

Attached are some of the items we have available for  
purchase, but not

limited to them and are happy to make to your requirements,  
if we do

not have what you want. Relax with a cup of tea or coffee  
and browse

through our virtual gallery and get your Christmas shopping  
off to a

great start. If you would like to purchase an item, have one  
made, or

need more information, please contact us at:

[friendsqmh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsqmh@gmail.com)

## A MIXED BAG TO MAKE YOU THINK OR CHUCKLE

During the last few months, an Ayrshire friend has been sending us countless humorous e-mails as a “cheery-upper” - included were the following:

- Sunday school teacher asked her class “What was Jesus’ mother’s name? A little boy answered “Mary”. The teacher then asked “who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?” A child said “Virge” Confused, the teacher asked “where did you get that?” Confidently he replied “well you know they are always talking about Virge n’ Mary”.
- 3 year old Reese:- “Our Father who does art n’ . Harold is his name”
- My young Grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was and I told him, 80. My Grandson was quiet for a moment and then he asked “did you start at 1?”
- A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin,5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, he would say “let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait”. Kevin turned to his younger brother and said “Ryan, you be Jesus”
- When my Grandson asked how old I was, I teasingly replied “I’m not sure”. “look on your underwear Grandpa” he advised. “Mine says I’m 4 to 6”
- A Sunday school Teacher asked her children as they were on the way to Church service. “And why is it necessary to be quiet in Church?” One bright little girl replied “Because people are sleeping”.

**HUMOUR CERTAINLY HELPS.**  
**WALTER & NANCY BOWIE**

### MORE TO CHUCKLE ABOUT

The old lady handed her bank card to a bank teller and said “I would like to withdraw £10”. The teller told her “for withdrawals less than £100 please use the ATM”. The old lady wanted to know why. The teller returned her bank card and irritably told her “These are the rules”. Please leave if there is no other matter, there is a queue behind you”. The old lady remained silent for a few seconds then handed the card back to the

teller and said “please help me withdraw all the money I have”. The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and respectfully told her “you have £300,000 in your account and the bank doesn’t have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come back tomorrow?” The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately. The teller told her any amount up to £3,000. “Well please let me have £3,000 now”. She, the teller, then handed it very friendly and respectfully to her. The old lady put £10 in her bag and asked the teller to deposit £2,990 back into her account!

THE MORAL OF HIS TALE.....

Don’t be difficult with old people, they spend a lifetime learning the skills.

[READY FOR MORE?](#)

[JUST READ ON.](#)

### HEAVEN’S GROCERY STORE.

I was walking down life’s highway a long time ago. One day, I saw a sign that read “Heaven’s Grocery Store”. As I got a little closer, the door came open wide, and when I came to myself, I was standing inside. I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said “my child shop with care”. Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store, and all that you couldn’t carry, you could come back the next day for more. First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row. Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go. I got a box of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH. I just couldn’t miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place. I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race. By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered to get some GRACE. I didn’t forget SALVATION, for SALVATION is free, so I tried to get enough of that to save you and me. Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill for I thought I had everything to do my MASTER’S will. As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in, for I know when I stepped outside I would run right into sin. PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf. SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself. Then I said to the ANGEL, now, how much do I owe? He just smiled and said “just take them everywhere you go”. Again I smiled, and said, “how much do I really owe?” He smiled again and said,

‘MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.’  
ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YOU SHALL ASK IN PRAYER, BELIEVING, YOU  
SHALL RECEIVE (Matthew 21:22)

That is very thought provoking - see what happens when you take all this on board and have a different message list the next time you go shopping

(Ed)

### BREAKING NEWS

There has been a fight in the  
biscuit tin!

A lad called Rocky  
hit a Penguin over the head  
with a Club, tied him to a  
Wagon Wheel with a blue Ribbon  
and made his Breakaway in a Taxi  
Police say Rocky was last seen just  
After Eight in Maryland with a  
Ginger Nut known to police as Rich T

They didn't leave a crumb of evidence so the Jammi Dodger got away with it.

(if anyone sees a suspicious looking lad carrying a biscuit tin contact our Session Clerk  
who gave out this information!! ED.)

### DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will;  
When the road you are trudging seems all uphill;  
When funds are low and debts are high  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh;  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must but don't quit

Life is strange with its twists and turns  
As everyone sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about  
When they might have won had they stuck it out  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow  
You may succeed with another go.

Success is failure turned inside out,  
The silver tint of the cloud of doubt,  
And you can never tell how close you are;  
It may be near or may be far.

So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit.  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit

(cont on next page}

(This poem, written by John Greenleaf Whittier, was often quoted during adverts for Stay Safe. He was an American(1807 - 1892) and was against slavery. Another of his poems is the hymn "Dear Lord and Father of mankind".

(Very interesting and very topical at this time in our lives - Ed)

## KEEP CALM

- When I get a headache , I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like it says on the bottle.
- Be nice to the nurses. They keep the Doctors from killing you
- I always offer two choices for dinner: take it or leave it.
- Instead of a sign that says"do not disturb", I need one that says "already disturbed, proceed with caution.
- Sometimes I panic and think there's a crazy person in my house. Then I realise it is just me.
- I am on a nut free diet. I avoid people who drive me nuts.

## STEEP LEARNING CURVE.

Teacher: Why are you late?      Student: Class started before I got here.

Teacher: Now Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps talking when people are no longer interested?      Harold: A Teacher

Teacher: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago?      Winnie: ME!

(Both of the above by courtesy of Sheila Imrie)

(Thanks to everyone who contributed to this mixed bag. Good to have e smile and a thought during these days of concern. Ed)

## MIX & MATCH (cont)

### **Church Ladies With Typewriters**

*They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:*

**The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.**

-----

**Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.**

-----

**The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' 'The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'**

-----

**Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.**

-----

**Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.**

-----

**Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.**

-----

**For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.**

-----

**Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.**

-----



**Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.**

-----

**A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..**

-----

**At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.**

-----

**Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.**

-----

**Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..**

-----

**The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.**

-----

**Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.**

-----

**The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.**

-----

**This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.**

-----

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

---

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

---

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

---

WeightWatchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

---

And this one just about sums them all up  
The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:  
'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



(needless to say none of the above announcements/notices are from St Margaret's. Ed)

## PARTNERPLAN

# Kate McDonald - Israel September 2020

St Andrew's Tiberias  
PO Box 104  
1 Gdud Barak Street  
Tiberias 14100  
Israel

[kmcdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kmcdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Dear Friends

It's hard to believe that it was only a year ago that I was with you on deputation. How much has changed in these past months. It feels as though we are living in a world whose landscape is completely altered, and we will emerge eventually from this time of pandemic and lockdowns and restrictions into unfamiliar surroundings.

The landscape of my life has changed radically as well since I was with you last September. I am writing to you from the back porch of my parents' house in South Carolina watching the sky lighten over the pond, a hint of autumnal colour in the leaves on the trees and a definite chill in the air. I arrived last week, having decided to fly before both the Jewish holidays and a second national lockdown began.

And this, as many of you will be aware, will be my final letter to you. Following the sudden and tragic death in July of Scots Hotel General Manager Peter Hehle, my friend, colleague and partner, I made the difficult decision to resign from the position of Mission Partner and Minister in Tiberias. I never imagined leaving under such circumstances which, if I'm honest, still feel surreal.



Endings and transitions can be painful, even when planned, even when the promise of new beginnings lie ahead. And when they come unexpectedly the sadness is even more acute. My final weeks were overshadowed by grief, as I packed up a life I had loved, in a place which held so many memories of joy and gratitude, and stepped forward into an uncertain future. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that a farewell service or gathering was impossible, and most of my goodbyes were said via WhatsApp or Zoom.

The managers and staff of the Scots Hotel were of course also shocked and devastated by Peter's death, and each day when I went to the hotel, they wanted to share stories of him. We cried and

# PARTNERPLAN

laughed together as we remembered him, and I was moved by how many said they now see their work as a tribute to him. The hotel had opened at the start of July and was full with local tourists throughout August and into the first week of September. As I was leaving, however, the hotel was closing once again in preparation for the national lockdown.

Since March, the congregations of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias have been meeting online for worship and fellowship. Even when we were permitted to open our churches, we felt the online services allowed a unique opportunity for the two congregations to pray and grow together, and with Rev John furloughed in Scotland until July, it would have been a challenge to hold worship in the two churches. Though I will preach a final sermon this week, it is strange to think that our final communion service together was back in February. None of us could have imagined then what lay ahead.

Our partners face an uncertain future as well, and yet their creativity and adaptability in the face of so many changes and challenges continues to inspire me.

House of Grace has continued to receive newly released prisoners throughout the last six months, and created a separate area for them to quarantine before they joined the rest of the community. The first session of their big brother/big sister mentor programme had to finish early in the spring as a result of the lockdown, but several of the young people and their mentors valued the relationships that had been built and maintained contact by WhatsApp throughout the summer. The youth programme also had to adapt to ever-changing regulations, pausing initially for the lockdown, then continuing in smaller numbers as restrictions eased. Some of its activities also moved online, though limited access to technology was a challenge for some of their youth.

Sadaka-Reut in Jaffa was one of our first partners to furlough staff when most of their community and university programmes had to stop. But they brought the group facilitators and other staff members back to work over the summer for a time of strategic planning and restructuring to create a way of working and offering programmes which will be more adaptable to the changing needs of their community in Jaffa which is facing the effects of gentrification and increasing marginalisation and discrimination. They have now held several virtual tours of Jaffa for the international community to raise awareness of its rich and complex history.

Sindyanna has weathered this storm surprisingly well. Their factory workers have continued to produce olive oil and za'atar throughout the past six months, following government guidelines for working. And they have seen an increase in sales of olive oil worldwide. Hadas, the Director, suggested this is perhaps a result of people staying home and cooking more, and wanting to support small ethical businesses. Bank Hapoalim, one of Israel's largest banks, chose two of Sindyanna's olive oils (including one made from olives from the Scottish Grove), for its Rosh Hashanah gift package. And despite the pandemic, Sindyanna has won more than 10 international awards for its oils.



# PARTNERPLAN

Many of our partners rely on international tourism for both income and advocacy, and they have felt acutely the impact of the closure of Israel's borders to foreign nationals. Many of them have held webinars and online interviews to continue awareness of the issues they are facing. And as international donors experience funding cuts as a result of the current crisis, our partners are affected.



An air of uncertainty and frustration hangs over the nation as unemployment stays high and small businesses struggle to survive. People are increasingly unhappy with the government's handling of the pandemic and are concerned that religious and political motives are being prioritised over public wellbeing, leading to long debates and last minute changes to regulations. While Israel seemed to handle the first wave of infections well and the public were surprisingly compliant during the first lockdown, cases have now

soared, hospitals are reaching capacity, and people are exploiting loopholes in the regulations or defying them outright.

Throughout the past months, it has felt like our presence and solidarity as a church has been needed more than ever. So as I leave, I am grateful that Reverend John has been able to return to Israel to be amongst our partners, staff, and congregations.

All that has happened in the last months, personally, nationally, internationally, serves as a stark reminder that none of us can know what lies ahead. In the Jewish calendar, we are in the midst of the Days of Awe, the holy time of introspection and reconciliation between Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and this year the words of the beautiful liturgical poem, the Unetaneh Tokef, hold a special poignancy:

As a shepherd herds his flock,  
causing his sheep to pass beneath his staff,  
so do You cause to pass, count, and record,  
Visiting the souls of all living,  
Decreeing the length of their days,  
Inscribing their judgement.  
On Rosh Hashanah it is inscribed,  
And on Yom Kippur it is sealed.  
How many shall pass away and how many shall be born,  
Who shall live and who shall die,  
Who shall reach the end of his days and who shall not,  
Who shall perish by water and who by fire,  
... Who by famine and who by thirst,  
Who by earthquake and who by plague,  
... Who shall have rest and who shall wander,  
Who shall be at peace and who shall be pursued,  
... But repentance, prayer and righteousness avert the severe decree.

# THANK YOU

## MANY THANKS

Helen and I would like to say a big thank you to members of the congregation for all their prayers and other forms of support during my bouts of ill health this year. It makes a world of difference to know others are thinking of us and rooting for us during these times.

I am suffering from unstable angina due to a narrowing of certain coronary arteries. I am due to have angioplasty [stents] which will hopefully fix the problem. After that I hope to be able to contribute once again to the life of St Margaret's, especially the acts of worship.

Gordon Brown, Reader

**Doesn't our community garden just look GREAT. Just in case you may think that we are fortunate enough to have fairies come out during the night to keep it looking so good – afraid I am going to disappoint you!! In fact it is Tom and Marjory McIntosh that grind away regularly to make it look like this. Just imagine how much toil, sweat and time it takes to look after such a large piece of ground. Well they do it. They're assisted by Walter and Nancy Bowie – Walter is the man that keeps the grass around our building looking so good and I know how much Tom appreciates this. Something else that Tom would appreciate very much is if some others could pop along and help by doing some bits and pieces around the garden. An hour a week would be very helpful Tom will keep you right as to what is required "doing". Males and Females are most welcome and all you have to do is to pick up the telephone and dial and Tom will be most delighted to hear from you. And this is something you can do without worrying about the Virus – just think of all the fresh air you would get. So a huge thank you to Tom, Marjory Walter and Nancy soon to be swelled by more volunteers after reading this!!**

**(you know how shy Tom is so he asked me if I would write up something on his behalf!!)**

## GIFT AID

**A HUGE THANKYOU to everyone who donates to our church, especially during this year's happenings. We have between January and end September recovered £17, 487 from the Inland Revenue gift aid scheme Well done to all our taxpaying members – you are wonderful.**

**Many members now find it more convenient to make their donations by standing order. Details required are:**

**Bank of Scotland, sort code 80-06-55, a/c 00720119.**

**THANK YOU**

**Audrey McArthur**

**(and a big thankyou to you Audrey for your work on this (Ed))**



## **ORGANISATIONS**

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

**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 periodically 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 11.00am 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 07925203505

**Rainbows** - Meet every Tuesday in the Rita Elder Hall at 6.15pm - 7.30pm Contact Helen Webber on 01383 736486

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 GSL Graham McCreadie

**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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