
ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

No. 469

VIEW FROM THE MANSE



Brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Instead of a letter this month, I would like to leave you with this prayer both for this time of year and for the year ahead:

Creator God, Our Father in Jesus
at the start
of this New Year
when thoughts turn again
to beginnings
starting afresh
new leaves
and turning skeletons
free from cupboards
be with us
as we gaze into the distance
of fresh mission grounds
of hopes and dreams
opportunities for service
challenges
and uncertainties
Take our fears
and turn them into strengths
Take our lack of faith
and empower us
through the Spirit
who breathes life into this world
whose presence is reflected
in the icy chill
of winter's breath
as well as the comforting warmth
of a summer breeze.
Walk with us into this New Year
of opportunity

Blessings to you and yours this year.

CHURCH DIARY

January 10	11.30a.m.	Halbeath Service
January 31	10.00a.m.	Teas and Coffees after Church Service in aid of the Leprosy Mission
February 7	11.30a.m.	Halbeath Service
March 7	11.30a.m.	Halbeath Service

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Mrs Nessie Adams has indicated that she feels it is now time to relinquish the task of preparing the annual F.W.O. envelopes.

A huge THANK YOU must go to Nessie in appreciation of the many years she has completed this task so admirably.

From 1st January 2010 all queries, requests etc. will be handled by Audrey McArthur.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee morning after Church Service on Sunday, 31st January in aid of World Leprosy Day will be hosted by World Mission Committee.

Fundraising Committee

Members of the congregation will no doubt be interested to see the result of our fundraising efforts throughout the year

Eight Baking Stalls	£528.06
Quizzes produced by June McAleece	£64.15
Sunshine Bag Collection	<u>£1108.40</u>
Making a total of	<u>£1700.61</u>

The Committee would like to express warm thanks to all those members of the congregation who support our efforts. A special word of thanks is due to the ladies who bake throughout the year to supply our stall and we welcome Audrey Lawrence and Margaret Orr to our team which now numbers 31.

Summary of Minutes of the Congregational Board Meeting held on Monday 30 November 2009.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Minister, Treasurer, Clerk plus 24 Board Members and was opened as is customary, with a prayer.

Opening Remarks.

The Chairman commended the Guild for the excellent musical entertainment and refreshments provided for their recent fund-raising evening.

The final application for a fast food takeaway at Mercer Place has been disallowed. Missing property belonging to the FCCS has been discovered by the police during a search of premises belonging to a youth apprehended on other misdemeanours. From this and previous incidents it has become apparent that much greater care will need to be observed when using the premises.

A second incident, also concerning the FCCS has arisen with a member of the church having admitted to the premises an adult and child without appraising the after school club leader. This is strictly against their safety regulations and was reported by another concerned adult. It is possible that serious implications could arise from this.

Correspondence.

A request to transfer £300 to the Benevolent Fund was agreed.

Mrs Catherine McCulloch has announced that she wishes to retire in January as editor of the Parish News – a job she has done for an amazing 23 years. The Chairman offered praise and grateful thanks for the excellent manner in which she has fulfilled the duties of the post and a round of well deserved applause was given. Anyone interested in taking over as editor to see the Chairman, Jack Eadie.

New Business.

Two points of new business were delivered by the Minister. The first concerns all churches, locally and nationally on a point of financial instability at Headquarters. Ideas on a new way forward for the Church are seriously called for and, commencing at a local level, through Presbytery, anyone with something to offer in the way of ideas should speak first to the Minister.

The second item is also one on a local and national level and asks us to seriously consider our 'carbon footprint'. Once again, any ideas to be passed via the Board to Presbytery.

Treasurer's Report

Our current finances continue to be in good shape with the General Fund standing at some £35.4k. Income for the year to date is £67,704 and Expenditure £57,921 giving us a pleasing net inflow of some £9,400. Of the Forrester Bequest, £5632 has been spent on the hydraulic chair lift for the disabled and the balance invested in our Deposit Fund.

The sum of £5000 has been allocated to the Touch Trust in order to start off the fund raising required for that project.

Interest and dividends from our Deposit and COS Income funds are down on previous years but have just been sufficient to cover our loan installment repayment. The unit price from the Legacy Fund continues to rise slowly but is still considerably down from its peak.

Gift Aid this year has provided a high of £12,398, mainly thanks to the diligence of our Gift Aid Convenor, Audrey McArthur to whom grateful thanks and a round of applause was given.

The 2008 accounts have now been finalised. Work on the 2009 accounts is ongoing. Approval was given for Douglas Aitken to continue as our Independent Examiner.

Proposed schedule for the preparation and submission of 2009 accounts to be as follows:-

23 Feb 2010 – Full Report (including budget) to be reviewed by the Finance Committee;

1 Mar 2010 – Trustees Meeting to agree submission of the Report;

21 Mar 2010 – Congregational Annual Stated Meeting.

At the end of his report the Treasurer told the meeting that it is his intention to stand down over the period of one year. During this time he would work in parallel with his successor. Anyone interested in taking over the post can discuss the issues with himself or the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer not only for his report but for the considerable amount of time put in and that the post entails.

Catering Committee.

The annual Carol and Mulled Wine evening will take place on Monday, 21st December. Doors opening at 6.30 pm with the Carol Service starting at 7.30pm.

Fund-Raising Committee Report.

Total raised to date £1,700.61. Of this, £1,108.40 from Sunshine Bag Collection, £528.06 from home baking stalls and £64.15 from quizzes. A further £700 was reported from the Craft Group. Grateful thanks and a round of applause was given to all concerned.

Property Convenor's Report.

Works completed: The decorating at the manse; side door at church renewed; rear

lobby opened up for disabled access and ensuing joinery work completed, painting of this to be done once Manuel is back to fitness.

The portable, hydraulic chair lift now available for use; painting of downstairs toilets completed; new external notice board now in place.

An attempt is to be made to clear out various items of old furniture lying around the premises. Likewise all cupboards and organisations to be asked to look over their storage areas to this end and designate items no longer required.

Items to be considered in the next financial year: further two rooms at the manse redecorated; new flooring for the kitchen, and rear lobby and the carpet in front of the font to be replaced; underside of the entrance canopy to be re-done, flush lighting installed, railings repainted and the addition of possibly two concrete planters to be installed, Renewal of windows to the offices at the rear of the church; supplying approximately 200 new padded stacking chairs for the church plus 2 barrows for the manoeuvring of these.

The design for the outside disabled access ramp has had to be re-done when a problem was discovered with the levels proposed. It is also proposed to re-site the remembrance plaque and cradle rolls from the alcove in the entrance vestibule to a position of greater prominence in the church and with the possible addition of a Book of Remembrance. The table in the entrance vestibule could then also be repositioned, creating most space.

A.O.C.B.

Thanks were given to the Swingnastics Group who offered to purchase a further 10 small hymn books for general use from the money raised during their last session. It was unanimously agreed that recognition be paid to Nessie Adams on the relinquishment at the end of December of her duties as both Freewill Offering Envelope Convenor and Flower Convenor, positions she has held for many years. Audrey McArthur is to take over as Freewill Offering Envelope Convenor and June McAleece as Flower Convenor.

As the position of church cleaner has still not been filled, 5-6 more names are needed to augment the cleaning rota while the search for a new cleaner continues.

The Meeting was closed with a prayer.

No date yet available for the next meeting.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship meets in the Rita Elder Hall on the following Wednesday afternoons at 2.00pm. All ladies and their friends will be made very welcome.

Jan 20	Rev Dr Iain Greenshields
Feb 3	Mrs Audrey McArthur & The Craft Group
Feb 17	Mr Roy Cordukes – New College Undergraduate and member of Saline Church
Mar 3	Mrs Margaret Orr – speaking on "Memories"
Mar 17	Favourite Hymns and Readings
Apr 7	Mrs Elizabeth Brown & Friends

THE GUILD

The Guild meets in the Rita Elder Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7.15p.m. Everyone will be made very welcome.

Our meetings are

Jan 11	Blytheswood Care
Jan 25	Burns Evening
Feb 8	Evening of Tai Chi
Feb 22	Mission Aviation Fellowship – Project

Mar 8 Chinese Christian Community
Mar 22 HIV Aids – Project

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Session 2009/10 resumes in January 2010. The following are the dates for your diary.

Monday 18 January	Bowling evening in the Main Hall at 6.45p.m.
Monday 1 February	Bowling evening in the Main Hall at 6.45p.m.
Monday 15 February	Bowling evening in the Main Hall at 6.45p.m.
Monday 1 March	Bowling evening in the Main Hall at 6.45p.m.

THE CRAFT GROUP

We would like to thank all our customers for their support in 2009. A special Thank You also goes to Mrs Helen Brown and Irene and her Slimmers for their 'bulk' purchases.

With ALL your help, we have been able to donate £700 to Church funds.

BROWNIE REPORT

Further Tales of the Adventure 100 Badge

After the October break we had a Hallowe'en Party with the theme Glow in the Dark – something just that little bit different. We still had the apples and pancakes covered in strawberry jam to eat – without using your hands!

Fireworks Night followed with the Fireworks Code and safe sparklers – Matchmakers chocolate sticks dipped into warm water and then covered with 100s & 1000s.

We had an evening where the girls had to identify the different flavours of water. Only one caught them out – apple and raspberry, if I remember correctly.

For St. Andrews Night we had a visitor, Andy, who brought along his pipes for the Brownies to see and hear. We then entertained him by trying to do the Gay Gordons. The Brownies made good progress when Irn Bru and shortbread were mentioned if they could dance well!

Christmas craft was making a hanging star out of a polystyrene ball with cotton wool buds stuck to it, painted and then glitter added. Very easy and very effective.

There are always two visits to church at this time of year – one at St. Margaret's for the St. Andrew's Day Service and then the Division Carol Service held at Gillespie Church for the Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs from West Fife Division. This service is organised alternately by the Guides and the Scouts. The Rainbows invited to Brownies to go to Ceramic Experience where we spent the evening painting a tile on our Centenary theme. We also had cake and juice.

Our last meeting of the year is our annual visit to the panto at Carnegie Hall (oh n0, it's not!) This year it's the Snow Queen which we haven't seen before.

All of these activities are part of the Adventure 100 Badge and we get points for them. The Brownies need to gain 100 points to get the badge.!

SWINGNASTICS

Swingnastics ended our September/November by having a lunch at the King Malcolm Hotel. There were 28 of us (including three honorary members) and we had a really good time.

I wish to thank our new treasurer, Mrs Audrey McArthur, who took over from Mrs Joan Eadie after Joan had been treasurer for many years. The Swingnastics is sincerely grateful to Joan and we thank her for all her hard work over the years.

I thank Audrey for stepping in and for all she has done since September.

The total amount raised since September is £254 – from this sum we intend to purchase another ten small hymn books.

I thank all the ladies for their continued support, those who make the teas and coffees and wash and dry the dishes, and a special mention to Mrs Rae Innes for her scrumptious homebaking treats from time to time. We resume Wednesday 13th January at 10a.m. and would welcome anyone who care to join us

THANK YOU - SHOEBOX APPEAL

The following has been received from the Beanstalk Nursery.

“The Beanstalk Nursery would like to say a big THANK YOU to the congregation of St. Margaret’s Church who helped us to fill 67 shoeboxes to send to disadvantaged children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. Without your help we would not have been able to send this great amount.

Many thanks for all your contributions towards to boxes and for the donations to help with the postage.”

I would like to add a personal thanks to all the members of St. Margaret’s who donated so generously. When I suggested helping the Beanstalk Nursery with this appeal I did not anticipate the overwhelming response that it would receive. I thank all who donated bags of gifts, cash to buy gifts or to help with the postage and to the member who donated a complete, beautifully decorated shoe box. Very many thanks.

Catherine McCulloch

Editorial

As I am now in my twenty-third year as Editor, I have decided it is now time to “retire”. On looking back over the years of the Parish News it is quite amazing how it has changed which I hope is for the better and that you all enjoy reading the magazine.

When I took over the Newsletter was monthly but later changed to every two months. I started “The Back Page” originally to involve members who were unable to come to Church and I made many visits and met some really wonderful people.

I thank very sincerely Mr Walter Sommerville, Balgownie Card Co. whose help over the years has been invaluable and if there was a space Walter always managed to find something appropriate with which to fill it.

I also thank, again most sincerely, our Printer, Mr Derek Nisbet, A4 Print who was always very obliging and generous and managed to get the Parish News printed on time. Very many thanks to you both.

I have enjoyed being Editor of the Parish News and I thank all our contributors whose timeous contributions made my task so much easier.

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

Feb 7	Mrs Cunningham	Mrs Gillespie	Mrs McAleece
Feb 14	Miss Bicket	Mrs Gray	Mrs Hamilton
Feb 21	Mrs Kerr	Mrs Chapman	Mrs Maureen Hynd
Feb 28	Mrs Brown	Mrs Stothart	Mrs McIntosh
Mar 7	Mrs Imrie	Mrs Bowie	Mrs Kennedy
Mar 14	Mrs McArthur	Mrs Pratt	Mrs Robertson
Mar 21	Mrs McCulloch	Mrs Angus	Mrs Evans
	Mrs Welshman		
Mar 28	Mrs Telfer	Mrs Todd	Mrs McEwen



FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Feb 7	Mr & Mrs W Faichney	
Feb 14	Mrs E Potter	Miss Bicket
Feb 21	Mrs W Kennedy	Mrs R Wilson
Feb 28	Mrs S McLean	Mr D Clark
Mar 7	Mrs C Hunter	Mrs S Imrie
Mar 14	Mrs M Brown	Mrs A McArthur
Mar 21	Mr & Mrs R Pratt	
Mar 28	Mr & Mrs W McKay	



NEXT ISSUE

Contributions for the March/April issue will be required on Sunday, 21 February.

LIFE AND WORK

January Issue

Scotland: The Reformation and The Enlightenment

One of Scotland's leading historians, Prof Tom Devine, explains why he believes Calvinism inspired the Enlightenment.

Exclusive extract from 'Reformation' by Dr Harry Reid.

In the first of a series on the key figures of the Reformation, Prof Peter Howie examines the life of George Wishart.

Mr 2010

Jackie Macadam meets the Rev Andrew Anderson, the man charged with overseeing celebrations to mark the 1910 World Missionary Conference.

Tartan Ecumenism

Scotland's role in this month's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

God Moments

The value of a ministry to the terminally ill.

Feasting and Fundraising

The Rev Dr Robin Hill describes how 'Souper Sunday' fully intends to change the world, one spoonful at a time.

The Loving Impulses

The first in another new series. Ruth Harvey looks at our family relationship with God.

Flowers or Weeds?

The Moderator considers how we can make a difference in 2010.

The Power of Song

Jackie Macadam learns about the healing properties of music.

Too Harshly Judged?

The Rev James Martin's series on misunderstood Bible figures looks at Thomas.

Plus

Presbytery of Edinburgh, all the regular columnists, news, letters, reviews and crosswords - all for just £1.60.



The Back Page

For Leprosy Day

HIS TOUCH

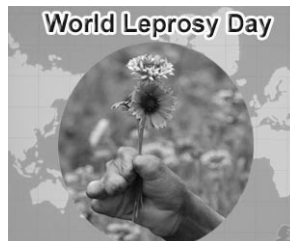
Your claw-like hands and the sores on your deadened feet
Reach out
Crying for new life and purpose.

I want to answer you
In the warm language of touch to say
"that you matter!"
"that your are loved!"
"that your life can be rebuilt!"

But you won't feel my hand
You won't sense my touch
Only numbness
My touch alone is dumb!

So I pray that deep down,
Deeper than your skin, flesh and bones
You will hear the touch that says
"Jesus loves you.
He cares for you and longs
To make you whole."
Because my touch is given to you
With His love.

Alison Stedman



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