
ST. MARGARET'S PARISH NEWS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

No. 468

VIEW FROM THE MANSE



I love Christmas: it's a time of magical sparkle – I even love the annual tradition of Christmas shopping and present hunting! One wise cracker has commented, "Christmas is a time when we exchange a whole lot of gifts we really like - for a load we don't want!"

I suppose we've all been in a position when we have received that indescribable gift – then been lost for words when we opened it in front of a doting relative! As someone perceptively said, "Christmas is a season of emotional family ties – especially when you have to wear them!" Two millennia ago, the apostle Paul Wrote this:

'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' (2 Corinthians 9:15), or as one translation puts it "a gift too wonderful for words!"

It is a **Personal Gift**. One of the greatest gifts in life that we can receive – especially at Christmas time – is the revelation and realisation that God knows each one of us personally, and wants us to know him personally, too. It is a gift that comes from the loving heart of the Trinity.

It is a **Practical Gift**. It reminds me of the woman who once stuck her Christmas wish list to the Fridge for her husband to read. She kept it brilliantly simple, asking only for "something that will make me look slim and beautiful". When Christmas arrived, she looked forward to opening a package with something gorgeously intimate inside. Instead, she got an exercise bike.

God came in Jesus to change us and give us a new life. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which literally means 'the House of Bread'. Later in his life, he spoke about himself in picture language, saying, "I am the Bread of Life. Those who come to me will never go hungry, and those who believe in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35) Bread satisfies and strengthens, and Jesus came into the world to satisfy and strengthen us all. But this isn't a gift to be received passively, end of story. It's practical by its very nature. When we receive Jesus, we also receive His Spirit, who helps us to live a brand new kind of life – with love, joy, peace, gentleness, patience self-control and humility.

It is a **Permanent Gift**. So, God's gift is personal: he gave us his son. And God's gift is practical, because it helps us to cleanse our lives. But it is also permanent.

Sometimes, we can give our children expensive toys, only to find, by the end of Christmas Day, that they prefer to play with the boxes or the wrapping paper. Sometimes, the presents we give them don't even work, or they break before they've had the chance to use them properly.

God's gift to us, however, is permanent, not perishable. It won't need to go back to the shop. Remember those immortal words from John's gospel: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life'?

Let us enjoy the real gift of Christmas and be thankful that though in essence it never changes, it is new to us every year and the most precious gift we will ever know – Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ

Iain

CHURCH DIARY

Nov. 8	10.00a.m.	Remembrance Sunday Service Coffee morning in aid of Erskine
Nov. 15	10.00a.m. 7.00p.m.	Communion Service Communion Service
Nov. 22	10.00a.m.	Guild Week
Nov. 29	10.00a.m.	St Andrew's Day Service
Dec. 6	12 noon	Halbeath Service
Dec. 20	10.00a.m.	Christmas Sunday service
Dec. 21	7.00p.m.	Carol Service and Mulled Wine evening (Time to be confirmed)
Dec. 24	11.30p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (refreshments 10.30p.m.)
November 7		Kirk Session Conference at Bankfoot
November 30		Congregational Board Meeting

Summary of the Minutes of the Congregational Board Meeting held on Monday 24th August 2009.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Minister, Treasurer, Clerk plus 28 Board Members and was opened, as is customary, with a prayer.

Opening Remarks.

New member, William Logan was welcomed to the Board. The church cleaning rota is to continue meantime although the matter is in hand to fill the cleaner's vacancy. Grateful thanks was given to all on the rota. Rates of pay for the new incumbent to be somewhere in the middle of current standards. A cleaning schedule is to be put together. The out of school club is now back.

Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

An objection is to be made by the applicant against the council's refusal to grant permission for a hot food takeaway at Mercer Place.

Correspondence.

Grateful thanks was given to the Ladies Badminton Group for their donation of £100.

Treasurer's Report.

Our current finances are in good shape with assets being up to £9000. The General Fund now stands at some £26,000, the bulk of which is held in the Church of Scotland Deposit Fund. Income to date is £46,317, against Expenditure of £42,902. From the Fabric Fund, £1500 has been removed to the Church of Scotland Deposit Fund in order to maximise our Interest. From the Forrester Bequest of £7847, £2293 has been set aside for the new chair lift with the remainder of £5594 also being transferred to the COS Deposit Fund. The Legacy Fund accounts for 2008 have been approved by Presbytery and are ready to go to OSCR before the end of September. An application by the Gift Aid Convenor, Audrey McArthur, to proceed again this year with the Christmas Gift Envelopes, was approved.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report.

Fund-raising Committee Report

Money from the 'sunshine' bags is expected to be in by the end of September.

Property Convenor's Report.

The scheduled painting at the manse is underway. The screening for the overhead window in the church above the projection screen is now in position. Work to accommodate a new disabled access from the side door has commenced. This will entail the fitting of a

ramp leading to a new, replacement side door. The ramp does require planning permission and the necessary administration is in hand. A portable, hydraulic lift to enable disabled access from the lower to the upper hall is expected to be delivered soon. Painting in the downstairs toilets has been completed by Manuel Giraldas but the remainder of the repainting schedule has been put on hold until he is fit again.

A.O.C.B

A suggestion has been made by the Minister that, whilst we are in the process of repainting the outside of the main entrance, we give some consideration to improving the overall appearance. The Minister also gave an update on the current status of the Touch Trust now that it has been granted charitable status. The next step is funding and to start this off, it was suggested that we, as a church, 'put some money in the pot' ourselves. It was suggested that £5000 be allowed for this. This was approved by the meeting. It is also usual for the Church of Scotland to contribute. Donations by individuals can be increased in benefit where Gift Aid agreements apply. Contact is also being made with various organisations. A charitable trust meeting will follow later with regard to the employment of the Trust's youth worker. A suggestion was also made that we apply to Touch and Garvock Community Council for some kind of donation.

The Meeting closed with a prayer.

The next meeting will be Monday, 30th November.

Christmas Gifts 2009 and Gift Aid Recovered

Last year's Christmas Appeal realised £1786.00. Of this sum Gift Aid could be claimed on £1305.00

The tax recovered amounted to £368.07 giving the Church an allover total of £2154.07. Well done everyone.

The Board invite your gifts again this year. If you wish to contribute please place your donation in the envelope delivered with this newsletter and place it in the Christmas Box in the vestibule or hand it to an Elder or Board member. Thank you.

We recovered a total of £9150.10 in 2008 and expect to recover an approximate total of £9800.00 of tax this year from the Inland Revenue under the Gift Aid Scheme. If you are a tax payer, but have not joined the scheme, it is very simple to do and it is all very confidential.

It would mean another 28p to the church for every £1.00 that you donate to the church. Please contact me to sign a form if you require any further information.

Audrey McArthur, Gift Aid Convenor. Phone 728128

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Despite the lack of sunshine during the summer months, members of the congregation have been filling the "Sunshine Bags" and the result so far, with over 50 bags still to be returned is £920.85. We are grateful to all those members who have responded so generously to our annual appeal and hope we can announce the final total at the beginning of November.

LIFE & WORK SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009

Several subscriptions for this year are still outstanding. The Church actually pays for these magazines in advance. Please see me if you do not have a receipt. Thank you.

Good News - the subscription remains the same (£19.20) for 2010.

Audrey McArthur 728128

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

Our meetings are -

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 3 | Rev. Alistair Jessamine - Dunfermline Abbey |
| Nov 18 | Mr Allan Prentice - The Auld Alliance Cycle Ride. Edinburgh - Paris |
| Dec 2 | Mr Frank Moyes - With a talk entitled "Why I like Centurians!" |
| Dec 9 | Christmas Lunch |

THE GUILD

The Guild meets in the Rita Elder Hall on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of the month at 7.15p.m. Everyone will be made very welcome

Our meetings are -

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 23 | Ministries Council - Project. |
| Dec. 14 | Pot Luck Supper with entertainment from Margaret Orr. |

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Session 2009/10

Our meetings for November/December are as follows: -

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 2 November at 6.45p.m. | - Bowling in Main Hall |
| Monday 16 November at 6.45p.m. | - Bowling in Main Hall |
| Monday 7 December at 6.45p.m. | - Bowling in Main Hall |

There are no further dates for 2009. Our session resumes in 2010 on Monday 18 January at 6.45p.m. in the Main Hall

BROWNIE REPORT

Girlguiding UK's Centenary year has arrived! On the weekend of 5/6th September 2009, units throughout the UK were invited to have a Launch Party.

West Fife Division's Launch Party was held at Queen Anne High School - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members were involved.

We watched a very brief DVD from Girlguiding UK telling us to SHOUT IT LOUD! - to herald the start of this important year. We watched some ladies performing the Trefoil Dance. There was, of course, a cake to be cut. We had craft activities to do - design a uniform for the future and sporty activities too.

The event culminated in us doing the conga out of the school into the playground and standing in the formation of the number 100. The fire brigade came along to take our photo and we released 100 balloons into the air. Great fun!

The following weekend saw a reception in the Glen Pavilion. Invited guests included Guiders, past and present, who have given long service to Girlguiding. Lily Miller, previous Brown Owl, attended, as did Marion Anderson, Pat Moyes and myself. St Margaret's Church was well represented. We were entertained by Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and it was a good opportunity to catch up with friends.

During the Brownie meetings we have been working on the Adventure 100 Badge - specially created for this year. So far we have built a tower(!) out of newspaper, grown herbs and played parachute games.

Its always great being in the Brownies but this year is going to be something else!!

Susan Guild

SCOUT POST

For 20p you can have your Christmas cards delivered by the Scouts in Fife in the following towns and villages.

Aberdour, Backmuir, Blairhall, Bowershall, Cairneyhill, Carnock, Cowstrandburn, Charlestown, Comrie, Cowdenbeath, Crombie, Crossford, Crossgates, Culross, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline, Gowkhall, Halbeath, High Valleyfield, Hill of Beath, Hillend, Inverkeithing, Kincardine-on-Forth, Kinghorn, Kingseat, Kelty, Limekilns, Lochgelly, Low Valleyfield, Lumphinnans, Newmills, North Queensferry, Oakley, Pattiesmuir, Rosyth, Saline, Steelend, Torryburn, Townhill, Wellwood. **CARDS WILL NOT BE DELIVERED TO OTHER PLACES.**

Please note WE DO NOT DELIVER TO Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy or Edinburgh.

Cards will be delivered from the weekend 12/13th December and throughout the following week. All cards together with monies will be collected before and after Church services on Sundays 29th November and 6th December 2009.

FLOWER CALENDAR 2010

For the past year, once again, the flower arrangers have been most grateful to the members of the Congregation who have kindly donated flowers which grace the Church each Sunday as a way of marking special anniversaries, and also for donations placed in the Flower Box.

So if you have a special day which you would like to be commemorated in the Church, there will be an opportunity to add your name to the Flower Calendar for 2010 on two Sundays in December, the 6th and the 13th when Nessie Adams will be in the vestibule with her list - or contact her on 726227.

Many thanks to the flower arrangers whose skill and talent delight us each week. Any ladies who would like to join them will be most welcome.

Many thanks also to the Flower Distributors who take the flowers to those unable to attend Church but they would have their task lightened if they were joined by volunteers willing to give some time on their way home from Church to distribute the flowers - please contact Miss Bunty Bicket at the Church or phone 722312.

SUMMER BOWLING

The winners of the Summer Bowling trophies were Mrs Edith Martin and Mr Bert Adams. Congratulations to you both! The Summer Bowling donated £109 to Church funds. Many thanks to everyone who attended so regularly.

THANK YOU

Thanks must go to the Men's Fellowship who have donated the new Notice Board; Mr Manuel Giraldas who spent many hours over many days painting it, to the friend of Mr Giraldas who did the sign writing and to Paul, our joiner who helped to erect the Notice Board.

Very many thanks to you all.

THANK YOU - SHOEBOX APPEAL

I thank most sincerely all the members of the Congregation who donated so generously to the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal being organised by The Beanstalk Nursery. The Staff at the Beanstalk are overwhelmed by our generosity and I know a letter of thanks will be coming from them once they know how many shoeboxes they have managed to fill with our invaluable help. However in the meantime I wish to say a big Thank You for all your donations. Very Many Thanks.

Catherine McCulloch.

THANK YOU

Thank you once again to Mr Jimmy Miller who keeps the garden in front of the Church full of colour from Spring to Autumn and also cuts the grass regularly. Thank you very much Jimmy. A thank you must go to Mr Tom McIntosh also, as I know that at least for one morning both Jimmy and Tom weeded all the paths, only stopping for a welcome cuppa from Swingastics. Thank you both very much.

30th November - St Andrew's Day

Andrew is a good patron saint for those of you planning a party - and who hope you have rightly estimated the amount of food you'll need. Andrew was the disciple who, when faced with 5,000 people to feed, brought a boy to Jesus who had two small fish and five barley loaves. When Andrew wasn't being wildly optimistic with the catering arrangements, he was out fishing with brother Peter and friends James and John.

This New Testament apostle and martyr was brother of Simon Peter. He was a fisherman by trade, his home was at Capernaum. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming an apostle of Christ.

In all the Gospel lists of apostles his name is among the first four; he is specially mentioned for his share in the feeding of the 5,000 and in the episode of the Greeks who wished to meet Jesus.

It is not certain where Andrew preached the Gospel, where he died, or (even in Chrysostom's time) where he was buried. The most ancient written tradition links him with Greece; Scythia and Epirus both claimed him as their disciple. Patras in Achaia claimed to be the place where he was crucified and preached to the people for two days before he died.

The saltire cross (X), commonly called St Andrew's Cross, which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with Andrew from the 10th century. His other attribute is a fishing net.



There has been recent discussion in the Scottish Parliament as to whether St Andrew's Day should be a public holiday.



November Issue

Hope for the Future

A Questioning Faith

Living in Humanity

A Life in Service of Country

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Field of Dreams

Allowing Children to Flourish

A Privilege to Care

Mrs Knox's packing

Scottish Weather?

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- all for just £1.60.

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

Dec 6	Mrs Cunningham	Mrs Gillespie	Mrs McAleece
Dec 13	Mrs Kerr	Mrs Hamilton	Mrs Maureen Hynd
Dec 20	Mrs Imrie	Mrs Gray	Miss Bicket
Dec 27	Mrs McCulloch	Mrs Chapman	Mrs McIntosh
Jan 3	Mrs Brown	Mrs Bowie	Mrs Stothart
Jan 10	Mrs Telfer	Mrs Kennedy	Mrs Pratt
Jan 17	Mrs McArthur	Mrs Todd	Mrs Welshman
Jan 24	Mrs Prentice	Mrs Angus	Mrs McEwen
Jan 31	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Robertson	Mrs Evans



Thank you, once again, Ladies, and of course Gentlemen for all the teas and coffees you have served throughout the year. It is all greatly appreciated

FLOWER ROTA

Dec 6	Miss B Bicket	Mrs E Potter
Dec 13	Mr & Mrs W McKay	
Dec 20	Mr & Mrs W Faichney	
Dec 27	Mrs W Kennedy	Mrs R Wilson
Jan 3	Mr D Clark	Mrs S McLean
Jan 10	Mrs C Hunter	Mrs S Imrie
Jan 17	Mrs M Brown	Mrs A McArthur
Jan 24	Mr & Mrs R Pratt	
Jan 31	Mr & Mrs W McKay	



NEXT ISSUE

Contributions for the January/February issue will be required on Sunday, 6th December, please.

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev. Dr. Iain M. Greenshields BD, DipRS, ACMA, MSc, MTh, 38 Garvock Hill, Dunfermline 723955
Session Clerk	Mr. Ritchie T. Campbell, 1 Pitbauchlie Bank 725516
Treasurer	Mr. Frank Moyes, 33 Whitemyre Court, Dunfermline. 738341
Clerk to the Congregational	
Board	Mrs. Vera Wilson, 24 Masterton Road. 720250
Church Officer	Mr. Robert McCulloch, 95 Garvock Hill. 734463
Organist	Mr. Tom McMillan, 157 Halbeath Road. 727252
Roll Keeper	Mr. Jim Adamson, 8 Garvock Hill. 727719
Editor	Mrs. C. McCulloch, 95 Garvock Hill. 734463

The Back Page

The Story Behind the Poppy Appeal

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the First World War ended. Civilians wanted to remember the people who had given their lives for peace and freedom. An American War Secretary, Moina Michael, inspired by John McCrae's poem, began selling poppies to raise money for the ex-Service community. And so the tradition began.

Raising money through poppies is an easy way to do your bit for those who have served and are currently serving in the British Armed Forces, and their dependants. The money raised will go towards supporting those who have been prepared to make a personal sacrifice through serving in the British Armed Forces.



In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard 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.



John McCrae

