



Dear Friends,

I am sure everybody here has had times of beginning anew. It can be exciting but a bit scary too. We here in the Church are about to have a time of a new beginning. All of us have experienced this before. We know we get apprehensive and think things like, 'Please don't let this or that change too much'. I am going to, quickly, share some

new beginnings I have had and I suspect some of you will identify with some of them.

As they used to say -----Are you sitting comfortably, then I will begin.

Before I was 15 I had moved house several times; had adapted to living in a Children's Home for Missionaries children, and moved schools 6 times.

Going to a new Church/Sunday School/youth fellowship was included in these moves.

The most important new start would be taking part in a Seaside Mission at Port Seaton where I really learned more about serving God. I also met Esther there and that was the beginning of a new life together. All daunting but exciting. Another new experience and new folk as I met her family and then we got engaged. We were married 3 years later. So a real new beginning. Now I was responsible for a house and a wife in a new place, a new job and going to a new Church.

By now, thankfully I had worked out that in any move and change you have to make an effort to speak to folk and go for it, believing you can do it. Just as well since over 50 years later we have moved house over 18 times. In all these new beginnings one of our priorities was to go to the local Church and shops and try to become involved.

The whole course of my life changed when I answered God's call to full time Ministry. A whole set of new beginnings for our family.

Then after I qualified, more moves and a new way of life as the Minister. New things for both of us as well as both sons now being away from home. However we both knew that God was always with us, a fact we have clung on to, and that we were where He wanted us to be.

Our final new beginning here in Blairgowrie was like completing a circle but still new. I had thought that by this stage in life new beginnings would be a thing of the past but NO – God appears to have much for

me in the future and He knows what I can still do.

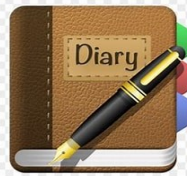
This new beginning here is a new journey with you too, as we look to find a new Minister for our Church. An exciting new beginning we must look forward to with God. It may not be quick or easy but we must remember that, no matter what age or stage of health, God keeps challenging us with new starts and keeps our love for Him and our dependence on Him fresh in these.

So let us journey on together as His people and trust Him to lead us on our journey.

God Bless

**Brian: Locum Minister**

### Church Diary Dates:



- Nov. 3rd - Communion Service, 11 am
  - Nov. 3rd - Evening Praise Service, 6pm
  - Nov. 10th - Remembrance Service, 10.45am
  - Nov. 10th - Soup Lunch
  - Nov. 11th - Armistice Day Ceremony, 11am,  
Wellmeadow
  - Nov. 17th - Messy Church, 9.30am
  - Nov. 30th - Guild Coffee Morning, 10am
  - Dec. 1st - Early Morning Service, 9.30am
  - Dec. 24th - Christingle Service, Evening
  - Dec. 24th - Midnight Service
  - Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Family Service, 10.30 am
- The School Service and Carols and Lessons Service will be held between 16th and 20th December. Details are to be confirmed.

Please check the website or service intimations for these details and the timings of the Christmas services.

Worship on 24th November will be led by Mr K. Redwood and on 29th December by Mr D Howat.



They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

'For the Fallen' by Robert Laurence Binyon



But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **1 Thessalonians 4: 13 -14**

## Are you struggling or in need of support with any of the below topics? -



Rent Arrears/Benefits  
Budgeting and Debt Management  
Setting up your new home  
Developing Independent Living Skills  
Help with Safety and Security

Accessing local services and linking in with specialist support agencies  
Accessing training, education and employment?



Floating Housing Support is a service that provides client lead housing support to adults over 16 to enable them to maintain independence in their own homes. This service is available to adults from all communities within Perth and Kinross area.

If you feel this is a service you could benefit from, please use the contacts below where a referral will be made on your behalf.

Tel: 01738 580188  
Email: [enquiries@cath-org.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cath-org.co.uk)

ALTERNATIVELY you can visit us at CATH COMMUNITY HUB, Ladeside, ST Catherines Road, PERTH PH1 5RY to discuss being referred.

### Postage Stamps

Thank you to everyone who has collected and handed in used postage stamps. With Christmas approaching please continue to collect the stamps and either hand them to me or place them in my pigeon hole in the Lower Hall.



### Joy Kearns

#### Memories of the Church: (Part 3): A Family Affair — by Charlie Smith

In the years prior to going to university (in 1970) I do remember the church as an integral part of life. There was never any question of not being involved. My parents, my uncles, aunts, cousins and most of my secondary school teachers were all part of it. Sunday mornings meant Sunday school and church; Sunday afternoons were for visiting relatives or playing football or homework!

My dad always went to the evening service at 6pm. He, my uncle Chic (Charlie Smith ) and Alec Dow (the late Kenny's dad and Bruce's grandad) were choir stalwarts, as were my Auntie Nellie and her husband John when they visited us from Scone. My cousin, Irene, ran the Sunday School for many years in the 1960s-1980s.

The Church was just an accepted part of life! Many of my secondary teachers were regular church-goers— Mr McFarlane (French), Mr Stewart (History), Mr Roy (Latin) and Mr W. Stewart (Maths) were all regular members. Another of my Maths teachers, George Stirling, was Session Clerk at the South Church.



## J.A.M Club (Jesus And Me Club)



The J.A.M. club runs for 3 afternoons in the Easter and October school holidays. In April we had fun looking at the stories or parables that Jesus told of things that were lost. The fourteen children who came along learned about the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. And they heard how God looks for His children who don't know Him or have lost their way. They had fun with a treasure hunt, games songs and crafts. On the Sunday following the club some of them took part in the Morning Service in Church showing the congregation what they had learned.

Then, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> we dived into the Bible with the children looking at some of the people Jesus met when He was on earth. This time the club was named Deep Sea Divers and two of the children helped us find out about life in the ocean. The hall was spectacularly decorated to show life in the ocean and the Bible stories were told by Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Asher who was healed by Jesus. They helped the children understand that God loves us all and we can all be assured of His love. There were also games, craft work in groups, singing and some keep fit exercises. Seventeen children, aged between 4 years and 10 years were registered. And on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> some of the children and adult helpers shared with the congregation some of what we did and some of the songs we sang.



It was very encouraging to be joined by a few adults from other Churches in the area and we had a small number of children from other Churches too. It is so lovely to see the children listening closely to the stories and to help their understanding. They may not be able to join us on Sundays but they are part of God's family and it is good we can reach out to them in other ways.

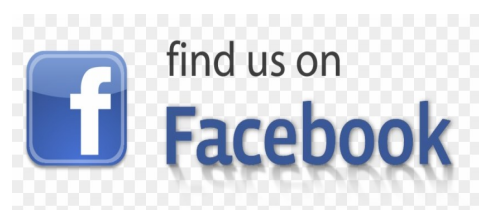
### Esther Dingwall



**Pause for Thought:** We are celebrating the glory of autumn just now, and we are honouring Remembrance Sunday too. But, as I was reminded by my butcher yesterday, Christmas is just 10 weeks away!! The joy of that season will very soon be with us.

**Church Website:** <https://www.blairgowrieparishchurch.org.uk>: From the church website you can access our:

- ⇒ weekly pastoral letter
- ⇒ monthly prayer diary
- ⇒ triannual newsletter
- ⇒ daily reflections
- ⇒ audio and video recordings of morning worship
- ⇒ daily Bible verse
- ⇒ worship resources
- ⇒ links to other Christian materials.



## From the Session Clerk: Reflection and Prayer

It's hard to believe that it's four months since Benjamin retired from parish ministry. Our sincere thanks go to Brian (and Esther!) for his willingness to take on both Interim Moderator and Locum. We pray that God will bless all he does in our congregation and community.

In terms of the vacancy, Presbytery now needs to appoint three people to a Vacancy Committee who then come and speak to us about the process and our readiness to proceed. The Presbytery's Vacancy Procedure Committee then determines whether permission to call is granted. I foresee no issue about that - it's more a matter of when, as I know that Presbytery continues to work through matters to do with churches elsewhere that are uniting, closing or selling properties.

I can hear the sighs from here! However, there are things that we can and should be doing at this time.

- The Fabric Working Group has been carrying out a weekly check on the Manse and is currently gathering quotations for works which need done prior to the calling of a minister.
- Our Roll Keeper is aware that we will be required to make up an Electoral Register of the congregation as only those on it will be able to vote for a sole nominee.
- An ad hoc group has been set up to draft a Parish Profile which gives any potential candidate an overview of the parish. This normally sets out our mission, a description of our membership, worship and community mission and outreach. It also indicates what we would be looking for in our minister and how we would support and share in their ministry. The Communications Group will be working with two members from the Fabric Group to progress this on behalf of the congregation and will call on the other Working Groups as required.

So, while we await matters to progress, please pray for:

- Brian, as he continues to conduct worship and pastoral matters
- Presbytery, as the various committees turn their attention to our vacancy,
- the Kirk Session and the Working Groups, as they continue to impact on our life and work while actively engaging in the vacancy process,
- the minister who will feel called by God to rise to the challenge of coming to Blairgowrie!

Blessings, thanks and prayers,

**Clifford**

## The Social Club

The Social Club recommenced at the beginning of September after our three month summer break. We are pleased to be back playing badminton and bowling and catching up with friends.

As always, we would welcome new members. For anyone interested in joining us, our badminton sessions are on Tuesday afternoons (from 1.30 pm) and Wednesdays evenings (from 7.00 pm) and carpet bowls on Friday mornings (from 10.00 am). Why not just come along and give it a try.

We plan to have our last session before Christmas on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and to start again in the New Year on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



## 'Seeds for Growth' Roadshow

We, the congregation, chuckled recently when a young woman from Kenya stood up and told us she was surprised to see we are mainly old! The observation made us laugh - probably because of the truth in it. Although we offer Messy Church, Sunday School and the Children's Holiday Mission (J.A.M Club), there are not many young families to be seen around the kirk. So I decided to go to an advertised roadshow to find out what the national church is doing in terms of increasing Christian spiritual awareness for all ages.

Held in the iconic St Matthews Church, the pews have been removed from this old building so Roadshow participants were able to sit around tables. I sat beside Rev. Sandy Gunn, who some will know, and close to Kathleen from Coupar Angus.

Rev. Tommy McNeil of Stornoway encouraged us, as a church, to consider five areas. These are worship, enthusiasm, nurture; witness and service. He asked us 'What do we see and feel?' There are fewer people attending church after Covid-19. Is this a lament? Should we repent – for the self-harm that is happening? He asked us to think of Nehemiah, who wept over the mere remnant, in terms of people and walls broken down.

We learned about the data evidencing the decline in attendance, though we were asked to consider the God factor and the idea of revival, famous in Stornoway and the islands. And the book of Revelation and the testimony of Jesus. There was talk of church planting, perhaps replicating your church to another location in your location... leading your church into growth.

The main aim of the Seeds for Growth roadshow is to let people know about the availability of grants, big and small. The grants, from £1000—£100,000 are reckoned to be sustainable because if there is an increase in the numbers of people attending church, there is likely to be increased funds over the years. We were given ideas about the way these grants could be used. There is a programme called *Growing Young*, for which grants may be given; there is also a free Church of Scotland *Training Portal*; also *Culture of Innovation* gets creative juices flowing about researching your community. He suggested we could maybe use this. All in all, a thought-provoking experience, and I'm glad I went. It definitely seems to me there's more to do than just sitting in a pew – but am I willing?

**Mary Mackay**

### Fabric Working Group: Report 1.



A willing group has been completing smaller maintenance tasks around the church over the summer—and also keeping the church gardens looking beautiful. The warm and sunny autumn weather has helped with that.

**Susan Whiteford: Fabric Convener**

*(Editor's Comment: It looks like they are having far too much fun!)*





## Mission and Outreach Working Group



We continue to meet as a Group, seeking to reach out and further understand our Community and to support and nurture our own Church Family. Using the aims from our Action Plan, we had sought to be a presence at Braemar Gathering but there is only one Charity allowed at this event so we will be applying in December for next year's Gathering. As the Highland Games were held on a Sunday, we felt it inappropriate to attend but felt correct in making a small donation on our behalf. The Farmers' Market also allows one Charity Stall and we have been fortunate in securing a table at the November Market. Please come along and support us.

We are delighted that the Church is running the J.A.M Club on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October and also being a presence at Sunday worship. Again, members of our Church are very welcome to visit. Our Guild and Craft Group continue to reach out to others within our Church and Community and our halls are in constant use by various Community Groups. Rev. Brian Dingwall is engaged with the Primary School who will be holding their Christmas Service in the Church.

There are many new houses being constructed in Blairgowrie and we feel that we should be delivering leaflets to them explaining what is happening within our buildings. We will be working in this area with the Communications Group. Members of our Group have attended 'Seeds for Growth' meetings and we hope to apply for a grant to cover the cost of our leaflets. We also plan to produce a Welcome Pack for new members and those who visit our Church and Church Halls. The suggestion of a 'Church Café' has proved more challenging to find an appropriate location within the town but we will continue to search.

We have many other ideas to pursue and when we meet towards the end of October, we will continue in prayer and fellowship to further this work. We would ask that our Church Family remember us in prayer as we seek to further God's Kingdom here in Blairgowrie. We would also welcome new members to our group.

**1 Peter 4: 10-11** *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms....so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*

We seek to use our unique talents and abilities to serve others and bring glory to God on our Mission Outreach. Let us all share His love creatively and faithfully.

**Margaret Conroy: Convener**



## Messy Church & Family Services

Early morning services are now held regularly on the first Sunday of the month. The service is suitable for all ages and lasts for about 30mins. It includes activities for children and sometimes breakfast is served before the service. Tea and coffee are always available afterwards.

Messy Church an activity-based service is held on either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month. The service in September was based on harvest with dried fruit necklaces being a highlight. Paintings of autumn leaves were made with a frieze of feeding the 5,000.

At the short service we were reminded that dried and tinned food would be collected for the local foodbank at the Harvest festival at the end of the month.



**Susan Whiteford**

Manu wearing his necklace

## The Pastoral Care Working Group



**Who we are:** Our Convenor is Elinor Smith, and our members are Jane Blackburn, Ruth Brand, Dorothea Cooke, Martha Easton, Kenneth Mackay and Sheila Watkins.

**What we do:** We provide Pastoral Care by visiting identified members and adherents as and when this is needed and regularly review this with the support of the Minister. Due to a number of deaths, there are currently around 14 people on our priority visiting list, so we do have the capacity to take on more people.

We send cards to members and adherents at times of illness, bereavement and other special occasions on behalf of Blairgowrie Parish Church. Since we began doing this in the middle of 2023, we have sent more than seventy cards which we hope have brought a measure of comfort to those who received them.

### How you can help:

- Consider joining us if you are not already engaged in a group – we can guarantee a warm welcome.
- Perhaps you know of someone in need of additional support - just let Elinor know in the first instance.
- Let us know if you are aware of anyone whom you think might appreciate a card to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.
- Please pray for our group as we strive to offer care and support to our members, adherents and community.

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10*

### Elinor Smith: Convener



### To make you smile: CHRISTMAS SAFETY REGULATIONS 1:

The angel of the Lord is reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to minimise the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and, in particular, the overwhelming effects of Glory.

## The Worship Working Group

The Worship Group met in September and had a very positive and stimulating meeting. The Group is very appreciative of the work our three organists—Fiona Bain, Martha Easton and Niall Jack—do to support our worship and thanks them on behalf of all the congregation.

It was decided to re-introduce the Evening Praise Services starting on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, There will then be one on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thereafter from the first Sunday in February 2025 they will continue. These services will be held in the Hall and will take different forms with different people leading them and participating. We encourage folk to come along and lift their voices in praise.

Thanks must go to Marjorie Ferguson for the praise services she has organised and led in the Wellmeadow. Sadly Marjorie has to give this up but Keith and Morag Redwood will be taking the job on so please encourage them by going along. Dates will be intimated as they are arranged.

The Christmas Services have been arranged so please see the dates in the Church Diary (page 2 of the Newsletter) and also look for the dates in intimations and notices.

### Rev. Brian Dingwall: Convener



## The Communications Working Group



The Communications Group has been busy finalising its specifications for an upgrade to the Sound System, and acquiring proposals for a permanent Audio-Visual System.

The existing sound system is beginning to show its age and the projection part of our present visual system consists of a laptop feeding to two projectors (one of which was bought second hand) and two small monitors, one in the pulpit and one on the communion table. This results in cables and unsightly black and yellow tape across passageways, as everything is controlled from the North Transept. Meanwhile, the streaming part relies on recording the service on one or two mobile 'phones. The Session Clerk then takes these away to edit, before uploading the film to the website on YouTube in an exercise that takes several hours each week.

Our plan is to have everything controlled from a projection desk at the back of the Church, next to the sound desk. A computer there would control two large monitors on the 'blue walls', two slightly smaller ones two thirds of the way back for those sitting in the balcony and at the rear of the Church, and a single monitor mounted on the front of the balcony facing the Communion Table for the Minister and Choir. We plan for two cameras to record the Minister in the pulpit or at the Communion Table, and anyone speaking from the lectern. This would allow us to 'Live Stream', so members and visitors could join the service as it takes place.

All of this requires an upgrade to our Wi-Fi which would be extended throughout the building. We are also planning two monitors on sturdy trolleys, one for the Upper Hall and Meeting Room area and one upstairs and these will be for the use of Church Groups or outside lets.

Our proposals have been accepted by the Kirk Session. About £16,000 has already been donated or raised towards the project and this is a third of the total cost. To complete we will need to either raise more or we will have to dip into our Financial Reserves. The Communications Working Group has been charged with setting up a funding group with representatives from the Finance and Property Groups to look at and make application to sources of funding. This group has met twice so far and the first application is underway. Meanwhile, if anyone has any bright ideas for fundraising, then please let us know. If we can get finance in place then we would hope to start work as early as possible in the new year.

Recently I visited a couple of churches that project as we do, but they projected 'white on black' rather than 'black on white', as we are more used to with print. I have heard that some people find this reverse easier to read when projected. By the time you read this, you may recognise that we are experimenting with 'white on black' now, so please let me know whether you prefer it, or not, or don't mind either way.

We have also started to make more use of the outside notice-board, which can take posters up to A2, so please look at this, as we will be publicising special services, such as the re-started monthly evening Praise Service, for which we will be doing projection in the Upper Hall.

And please remember that as well as the weekly Order of Service, and PowerPoints for projection, we produce a weekly PowerPoint file of intimations. These facilities are there to be used, so give us your news for inclusion in one or both these outlets.

**David P. Howat (Convener)**



### To make you smile: CHRISTMAS SAFETY REGULATIONS 2:

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke

**The Church Magazine:** Thank you to everyone who has signed up to receive this magazine by email. If you haven't yet but would like to, then please contact me at [colleenajoslin@gmail.com](mailto:colleenajoslin@gmail.com). The newsletter is also available on the church website at <https://www.blairgowrieparishchurch.org.uk>. and we provide a print copy for those who wish it. I would welcome ideas for the development of this magazine. Please be in touch if you'd like to see something more here. **Colleen**

## The Guild: Let Us Build A House



Our new session has begun with an exciting new strategy. From 2024-2027 the work and worship of the Guild falls under the strategy of "Let us Build a House" This three-year strategy has a different theme for each year, and the theme for 2024-2025 is 'Sure Foundations'. Topics are also introduced to encourage exploration of particular current concerns, possibly leading to some local action. Our discussion topic for this year is "The Reason We Serve"

Over the next three years we will be supporting four new Guild projects as well as continuing to support local community groups. From January, the four projects which will be supported by Guild Members will be:

**Bear Necessities** – supporting the community in Sliven, Bulgaria, to build a Church which will provide a place of Worship as well as community activities and provide theological training to lay members.

**Crossreach: Playful Beginnings** - supporting children with additional support needs, and parents who are struggling with the early years of parenthood, to have the support they need for a positive start.

**Release International: Operation Hope** – supporting the Christian Community in upper Egypt by providing practical and pastoral support.

**Scottish Bible Society: Bibles for Bairns** - supporting every new child born in Scotland whose parents want it, to receive a Bible and other reading resources for the first five years of their life.

Since the 1960s the Guild has supported a variety of Projects prayerfully and financially, raising more than £7.5 million and it is currently encouraging younger people to become Guild members. In 2024 it launched L.I.F.T (LOVE In Fellowship and Trust) an online Guild Branch for young people aged 18-30.

Our Dedication Service was held in the Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and was led by the Rev. Brian Dingwall with both of the next two meetings led by members of the Leadership Group exploring our Strategy and Theme. We are now looking forward to hearing about Cambodia from two of our young folks, Adventure into Books by our local Book Shop owner and our Carols and Readings meeting led by Martha over the next weeks.

Events are also a part of Guild Life and we are hosting a Concert on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in the Church followed by a tea/coffee and homemade cakes in the Church Hall. Our Christmas Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Church Hall at 10.00am.

Who can come to our meetings? Who can support the Guild in its work? Who can come to Guild Events? Who can share in our Worship, Action, Faith and Fellowship? YOU CAN! You will be very welcome at them all.



**Margaret Conroy, for the Guild Leadership Team.**



## 2nd Blairgowrie Boys Brigade

It is with great sadness that I must announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Blairgowrie Company of The Boys Brigade will not be resuming this session.

This was a unanimous decision from Mrs Mackay, Mrs Watts, and me to advise the Kirk Session that we were standing down after the display in May this year. Due to our age, health, and work commitments we felt that we would really struggle to continue and give the boys all the energy, commitment and enthusiasm that was needed and deserved. We have found it exceedingly difficult to get male helpers or Officers to come along to assist on a Friday evening too. We approached Boys Brigade Headquarters, and they also tried to recruit help for us, but unfortunately it was not to be.

I personally want to thank the Kirk Session and congregation for all the support and help they provided to me during my ill health. A special thank you must go to Mrs Mary MacKay and Mrs Nicola Watts for taking the reins and carrying on until my return last session.

I hope and pray that in the future we can see the resurrection of the company with new young blood prepared to take on the Challenge of such a magnificent organisation. I have felt very privileged and honoured to have held the leading position over the last few sessions and have enjoyed working with many boys over the last 16 years in Blairgowrie. Thank you

**Carol Annand: 1<sup>st</sup> Correspondent 2<sup>nd</sup> Blairgowrie BB: OIC Junior Section**

The Kirk Session was saddened to hear that the company would not be continuing. However, the Elders fully understand the officers' and helpers' decision to step down. Session members know that this decision will not have been taken lightly, and sincerely thank Carol and the staff for their dedication and diligence as they worked with the boys and their families.

As a church we will continue to pray for the boys and staff and thank God for all that the company has achieved over the many years of its history. Who knows, God may guide others to take on the task of nurturing boys once again through the 2nd Blairgowrie Company.

**Clifford Cooke: Session Clerk**

### **The Moderator's Prayer for Peace**

Lord God, you have commanded us to love our neighbour ... And yet we have failed.

Lord God, you have commanded us to love one another ... And yet we have allowed hatred to grow in strength.

Lord God, you have commanded us to follow the example of Christ ... And yet we have become motionless and silent.

Lord God, you have commanded us to reach out beyond every human made barrier ... And yet we have closed our senses to the problems that exist in our world.

Help us to turn the word peace into a verb that we become active in seeking opportunities for dialogue and meaningful discussion as a means to identify a path to peace for all people in Israel and Gaza.

**Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson**



## Craft Group



The Craft Group restarted at the beginning of September and welcomed back our regulars plus some new members. Everyone is busy knitting or crocheting poppies for decorating the church on Remembrance Sunday.

Meanwhile, Christine Pate, our flower convenor, came and showed us how to make a basket display for harvest. The baskets were used to decorate the church for Harvest Sunday.



Some folk were busy during the summer knitting for the Cross Reach Perth prison project .

We meet every Wednesday in the Church hall between 10-12.

Please join us for a chat, even if you don't knit, crochet, craft or embroider. We would love to see you.

Contact **Dorothea 07840 737218 or Elinor 07753 174799**

## Promise Of The Rainbow

### 1. Wind-driven rain

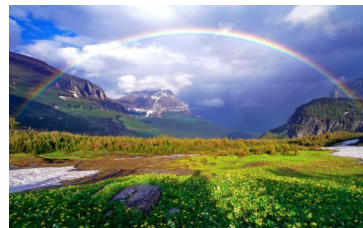
Blocks out the light of day.  
A grey depression round me  
As I walk along the way.

### 2. Suddenly a clearing in the clouds,

A rainbow arches overhead,  
The sun glints in the rain,  
The rainbow is above my head

### 3. And there before me in its glory

Is the beauty of the Firth and Highland hills:  
A beauty that I knew, deep down,  
Was only hidden for a while.



### 4. Life has been storm-battered,

Grey, depressing and uncertain.  
I had wondered in despair  
Will I know the love of God again.

### 5. The beauty of that rainbow

And the promise that it holds  
Reminds me of the love of God  
And that promise made of old.

### 6. He will never leave His people,

Nor withdraw His love.  
He will lead and guide me  
If I learn to look above.

### 7. Just as the clouds part in the sky

And the rainbow arches up above;  
So my gracious God reminds me  
Of His promise and His love.

*Esther Dingwall*

I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."  
**Genesis 9:13**

## Round-up: News in Brief

Hello friends, this is a new section in our church newsletter. It is where we can share with our church family the things that are happening and important in our lives. Have you had, or are you about to have a big anniversary? A big (or big enough) birthday? Holiday of a lifetime? Successful hobby, a new house, a new grandchild, a new hip? Why not let us celebrate with you? Photos welcomed.



### Our congratulations to John and Elspeth Campbell on their 60th/ Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Their daughter, Shona says ' They met at work, in Glasgow City Chambers, when mum was 16 and dad was 17. They got engaged when mum was

18, but she had to promise her parents they wouldn't marry until she was 21... they married when mum was 21! That was on 11th September 1964. Their wedding was in Ibrox Parish Church, mum's family church and the church where we were all christened and attended every Sunday while growing up. I used to ring the church bells and my sister attends the same church each Sunday to this day.



### To make you smile: CHRISTMAS SAFETY REGULATIONS 3:

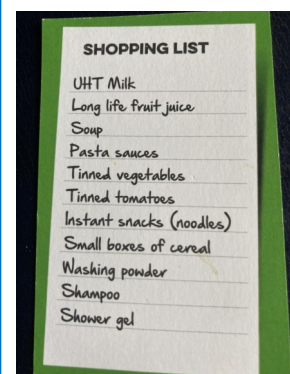
All members of the congregation planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered.

## Harvest Thankgiving Service

Our Harvest Thankgiving Service was held on Sunday 29th September. It was led by Rev. Brian Dingwall with a contribution from Susan Whiteford. The church was beautifully decorated by our very talented Flower Convener, Christine Pate, with baskets produced by the Craft Group under her guidance.



All goods collected were to be donated to the Food bank so we had been advised in advance of the most appreciated items (see list).



We were delighted to donate 133.8kgs of goods. (For those of us who need that weight in 'old money', it is just over 21 stones!) And we were also able to donate £90 in cash. The Foodbank team has sent sincere thanks to everyone who supported this appeal.



## The Finance and Stewardship Group

After what has been a somewhat protracted amount of time, we have finally got the new software package (Liberty) running on what I feel is an even keel.

As regards the present financial position of the church it is as follows. At this point in time, we have £33,000 sitting in our bank account. This has been bolstered by a very generous legacy of £5000 and earlier in the year £20,000 was transferred from our Growth Fund in 121, as we were sailing perilously close to the wind. This leaves our Funds in 121 sitting at £159,000.



This may seem a very comfortable position; however, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we have a diminishing congregation and an ageing building which continues to require monies spent on it. Congregational givings remain our main source of income, along with very healthy hall rents which so far this year have amounted to £5000 and are a welcome addition to our income.

### Bob Strachan: Treasurer and Convener



### Knitting for Perth Prison Visitors Support and Advice Centre

These are just a sample of some of the items that we have made for prisoners' families. Our knitters enjoy making them and the recipients enjoy getting them - a double blessing.

Now that the nights are getting longer, if you find that you have time on your hands, please consider knitting for this worthy cause. Pram covers, blankets, baby clothes, hats and gloves for older children - all are gratefully received.



If you would like to get involved either by making goods or donating spare wool, please speak to **Elinor at church or on 01250 870618.**

## Fabric Working Group: Report 2



The group has been looking after the manse since June when Benjamin moved out, with weekly visits to make sure the building is safe and secure. The Presbytery fabric convener has visited and is impressed with the quality and decoration of the house. A few areas of paintwork need refreshing and quotes have been obtained for that and also for the painting of the eaves next year. The porch at the front door either needs repair or replacement windows and quotes have been obtained.

Quotes have also been received for the clearing and spraying of the vegetation on the clock tower which will be carried out as soon as possible. We have some excellent pictures of the tower taken by a drone, which assisted in getting the quotes.



### Susan Whiteford: Fabric Convener