

Season's Blessings



In this issue

*Pictures from the Flower and Banner Festival
Reader Gordon Brown on his year of travelling
St Margaret's fundraises for the homeless of Syria and Nepal*



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Letter From the Minister

Rev Dr I M Greenshields

Dear Members and Friends of St. Margaret's,
First of all, let me wish you every blessing for the New Year.

The latter part of 2015 saw us fundraise for two very different hot-spots in the world – Syria and Nepal. I am very proud of the wonderful response from St. Margaret's whereby we were able to send nearly £4000 to Syria and raised enough money to build 7 homes in Nepal!! Wonderful!! I felt able to enjoy Christmas knowing that we had contributed to the wellbeing of very needy people and a big thankyou to everyone who contributed.

The New Year sees us face two challenges – I am going to call them “opportunities” rather than challenges! It has been obvious for some time that our roof is in poor repair which is hardly surprising after 40 years. We have appointed an architect to take care of the project of putting on a new roof and we will be able to come to the congregation with full costings and a financial plan. I do not think this will be beyond us as a congregation but it is likely to be a considerable sum of money. I see this as us investing in our church building to ensure good premises for the next generation – we have done a lot to bring the building internally up to standard now we need to secure the externals!

The other opportunity before us is to find the funds to employ a part time youth and family worker. We have now got funds of £18K set aside [café money over two years and grants from Presbytery] as well as promised giving which I will institute over the next few weeks. We will be applying again to the “Go For It” Fund – our application was turned down for good reasons last year but if we apply properly this year we could be looking at £10K a year for the next 3 years and this would allow us to progress the services of a part time worker. This is every bit as important as the roof because we need to get cracking on bringing families into the church and building on what we have done with JAM and this cannot wait 5 years until we have paid for a new roof.

Strategy? Two-fold! Prayer. There is no doubt in my mind that as a spiritual exercise this calls us to pray for the Lord to open doors, hearts and wallets! Second, for us to ask whether or not there is a priority in our own minds that the Kingdom of God and its growth here comes before any other priority!

Opportunities then for the coming year and I am not daunted by the task but invigorated at the potential to put our faith and commitment to the test.

Warmest regards,

Iain



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to you all. May 2016 be a joyous one for you.

Thanks to those who picked up the Christmas envelopes to be delivered around the Parish. A big effort by those involved – not quite cleared them all so “extra” deliveries were made by Iain and a few of the congregation – but all were delivered in time for Christmas.

I do hope that you like the front cover this month. You will recognise these as the banners that were produced by the Banner Group in the Church and I think you will all agree that they look quite magnificent. Elsewhere in the magazine you will come across photographs of the Flower Arrangements that were produced for the Banner and Flower Festival. The Church looked quite amazing when they were all on display and I just wanted to re-capture not only the beauty of it all but the effort that went into producing such a mass of colour!

I would point out the information included by Iain that refers to items under review by the Session and would urge you to please make your voices heard.

My thanks to David Langskaill for giving me permission to include an item from the 39th Scout Group magazine. Just feels that it keeps us up to date with what is happening – they may not share our premises but they are a big part of the youth organisations within St. Margaret's.

Writing this just leading up to Christmas day and have to mention the wonderful evening we had at the Family service. The choir were fantastic, good to hear the voices of our own Guide choir who did very well, and oh so good to see the Church so full of people rejoicing and having such a good time. We never tire of the 12 Days of Christmas do we!! Thanks to all those who made it possible – and for supplying the food and drink goodies! We also had an excellent Nativity Play by JAM – quite a different “play” in how it was presented but as always with the same wonderful message – and with “audience participation”! A lot of work by those involved and very much appreciated by all – and again great to see the Church full!

So another year and I hope another year when I can rely on contributions from you our readers to keep the magazine “alive” – people do comment on how interesting they find these articles.

Thank You

Ross Kerr - Editor



The Kirk Session met on Monday 14th December 2015.

- It was decided to ask the congregation whether to continue to meet at 10am or move to 11am on Sunday mornings – tea and coffee to be served from 10.30am. The reason for considering this change is the number of people who are either not able to make it for 10am or are finding getting there for this time increasingly difficult. The congregation will be formally polled on the matter, but please give the Session your opinion.
- It was decided to do away with the communion card system. This will be replaced with a letter from the minister and session before each communion giving an update on what is happening in the church as well as an invitation to attend communion.
- The frequency of communion was discussed with the possibility of having communion every month and still having 4 main communions where people were sent the update and invitation letter – this will be discussed at the next Session meeting but please let us know your opinion.
- It was indicated to the Kirk Session earlier that the current church roof is badly in need of repair/replacement. After taking professional advice it has been decided to put into effect the process of replacing the current roof surface along with any repairs that will need done to the roof itself.
- Data Protection is a government requirement for all churches. The Minister is currently visiting the whole congregation to explain the current legislation and seek permission to hold information – this will take a number of months, but expect a visit!!



.....SO, IT'S BACK TO WORK!

By St Margaret's Reader

Gordon Brown

My 'year out' is over. My 'bucket list' completed, at least for now. I am ready to do some work again. I have had a marvellous year. A real learning experience. Full of new and different experiences. I have met many interesting people. And with time to 'think' and 'read' I have been challenged, in the way I view things and in my spiritual beliefs.

If you can afford the time and the money – for there is a cost – I would certainly commend the idea of 'taking time out'. Anyone can do it. It's not only about working people taking a 'career break'. You might be a student, a housewife or retired. Taking 'time out' to do something different shakes us out of our normal daily routine and freshens us up. Take us long as possible. A 'year out' may seem a long time, but I can assure you, the time has flown in.

One of my objectives during the year was to visit as many different churches as possible. I wanted to learn how 'others' – especially other denominations – worshipped. Where possible, I also wanted to learn how they 'operated'.

As I wrote in another article, my first experience, early in the year, was with the Jesuits in Glasgow. They were so welcoming and demonstrated the importance of setting aside time regularly for contemplation and reflection. I then experienced worship of a very evangelical nature in the Western Isles. On other Sundays, Helen and I visited various parish churches in Fife, Perth shire and the Lothians. Most were of a traditional nature, poorly attended with few if any youngsters and not terribly welcoming. By contrast, Perth Baptist Church attracted a large congregation with youngsters of all ages, particularly teenagers. Like most Baptist churches, Perth is extremely welcoming. When I asked the reason for their success, they said – prayer.

In early September, I achieved a long standing ambition to visit – Canterbury Cathedral. I travelled out to Kent on the High Speed Rail. Boy, did it shift! Canterbury is not as big as some cathedrals, Durham for example, which we'd

visited earlier in the year. Nevertheless it is majestic, historic and a very special place of worship.

However, looking back at my journal I said – *“The visit was very worthwhile. I enjoyed it. But I felt disappointed. The tours, the building, are all about Archbishop Thomas Beckett, murdered within the precincts of the cathedral because he would not do the monarch’s bidding (Henry II). It is a shrine to Beckett. Neither God, nor today’s worship or ministry were spoken about. Even the magnificent stain glass windows all round the high altar depict scenes from Becket’s life – not Christ’s, not the gospels. I found that odd.”*

In October, I travelled out to visit family in New Zealand. My cousins are all active Christians in different denominations – Baptist, Presbyterian and Anglican. I was in Christchurch on three consecutive Sundays so visited three different churches – ‘mega churches’ as they are called. The ‘mega churches’ are invariably evangelical and have grown at the expense of smaller churches, particularly those of a conservative, traditional nature. One of my own cousins has suffered as a result of this process. He was Pastor at a small to medium sized city Baptist church. He too offered an evangelical ministry. But over time, members, including elders and office bearers, decided to move to the ‘mega churches’ as they were able to offer so much more – larger congregations, a greater sense of community, facilities in daily use, youth ministries and so on. Earlier this year the Baptist Union of New Zealand told my cousin and his wife that their church would need to close, because it was no longer considered viable. They have risen above the personal pain this caused – and now attend one of the ‘mega churches’ that brought their ministry to an end. Is this the way that we in the Church of Scotland should be following? Fewer, larger churches, able to offer more?

I enjoyed all three ‘mega church’ experiences. The worship was in fact fairly similar. They were all well attended. At two of the three, there were loads of youngsters. All three had the most professional Praise Bands I’ve ever heard (any one of them could win ‘The X Factor’!) The music and singing – almost all modern hymns and songs – was passionate and uplifting. And the ‘sermon messages’ were all relevant to the times.

At *Hope Presbyterian Church in Hornby, Christchurch* (if you have computer access, take a look at their website), my cousin arranged for me to meet the Senior Pastor to discuss their success as a church. Thirty years earlier he had been the sole Pastor. Now there is a ministry team of seven, each specialising, but also inter-changeable. But their first appointment had been a church manager/administrator to coordinate activities and lift the paperwork burden from off the minister(s). He described the church as - 'prayer-driven; trusting that God would provide; always looking and planning ahead. This created confidence and a belief that anything, if well thought through, was do-able. Among their priorities were – worship music; spiritual renewal; young people's ministry; encouraging inter-generational time together, in other words, one community. Looking ahead he thought it would be the 'mega-churches' with a Contemporary evangelical message that would develop and grow. Whereas those offering a traditional approach would continue to decline and eventually disappear.

It has been marvellous to have the time and freedom to visit other churches. Some were a depressing experience; others were highly uplifting. But we cannot worry too much about 'other churches'. We must devote our energies into making 'our' church one of the most welcoming and vibrant worship centres around. Or as the New Zealand Pastor put it – prayer driven and confident that God will provide and help us deliver our hopes and dreams.

And so...it's back to work!

J.A.M. Club News

Following a lovely long holiday break, we resumed our meetings at the end of August. Happily, many of our "regular" members returned and we were delighted to welcome several new children.

We try to be creative in the activities which we present to the boys and girls and the first challenge of the session was to build a Lego model which would tell us about themselves! This was great fun and provided an insight into each child's interests.

In September we talked to the children about the situation in Syria. From television reports, the children were aware of the plight of Syrian people. Iain explained that the congregation was trying to raise money to help Syrian Christians settle in Poland.

This led to discussion about how we might raise money to help this effort...little did we know that our fundraising idea would be such a success! It was decided to "Sing for Syria" With the help of our recording team (Morna and John) we made CDs of some of our favourite songs. There was a competition to design the CD cover – Paige Grieve won and the finished CDs looked wonderful. This effort raised £130!

At J.A.M. Club our main aim is to tell the children about Jesus and help them understand how He changed people's lives when He lived on Earth...and continues to do this today. They learned about Zacchaeus...a man who had few friends and was unhappy, until he met Jesus! We went on to talk about our friends, problems we encounter with relationships and how we can always rely upon Jesus to be a friend who will never let us down.

On Remembrance Sunday, the children displayed great respect for those who were injured or lost their lives in the service of their country. It was good to listen to their thoughts regarding the futility of war. During Advent we have been thinking about "Peace", and our younger boys and girls created their own colourful dove by fingerprint painting!

Recently we have been blessed with the help of three young volunteers (Ewan, Cameron and Dale) who are wonderful additions to the JAM Club team.

It is our custom to have a time of worship, led by Iain, at the end of each month. During this time, the children were reminded of the continuing hardships facing families in Nepal. How could JAM Club help?

It was decided to organise a coffee morning...this took place on 6th December. We never imagined for a moment that we would receive such wonderful support from our church family! The magnificent sum of £400 was raised.

At the time of writing this report we are busy preparing for our Nativity Play which is to be part of the Family Service on 20th December. It is a very busy time for us all...but a precious opportunity to remind the children who come to us each week of the true meaning of Christmas. In this time of worrying about what to give people, we remind the boys and girls about the people we should be thinking of most, the REALLY IMPORTANT FAMILY...Mary, Joseph and Jesus, and the greatest gift of all...our Saviour.



Love and blessings from everyone in St Margaret's J.A.M. Club

(Note: We start up again on Sunday 17th January 2016)

5.45pm-7.15pm (Primary 1-7)

5.45pm-8.00pm (S1-2)

(see "organisations" page at back of magazine for contact details)

THE "THANK YOU" PAGE

MARGARET SCOON would like to thank Iain and the many members of St. Margaret's Church for their kindness and caring throughout the last year. It has meant so much.

HEARTFELT THANKS FROM THE MOYES FAMILY

We want to thank all our friends in St. Margaret's for all their help and support over the last four months throughout Frank's stay in hospital, They have helped in many ways, with flowers, good wishes, cards, visits, offers of help, taxi service for Moira to and from Church and hospital and most especially prayers. We love you all.

Moira and Frank.

COIN COLLECTION

Members of the congregation have been most generous in their response to this annual money-raising effort and we are most grateful to everyone who made the total of £1,355 possible.

Many thanks

Lily

FLOWER DELIVERERS

We are fortunate to have a loyal team who are happy to deliver the flowers each Sunday after Church and enjoy their visits to members of the congregation. Morag and Keith Hamilton and May and John Rogers, who have been involved since 2011, find they are not able to continue, and we would like to express warm thanks to them for all the help they have given.

Many thanks

Lily.

SNIPPETS

With us not having our normal magazine during November/December I now have a few contributions that I have been unable to put into this edition due to space – but these will be used as the year goes on! In the meantime I did pick out a couple at random – and even though one refers to Christmas I did think it worth putting in! (Ed)

CHRISTMAS CARDS

There is a list of folks I know, all written in a book
And every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look.
And that is when I realise that these names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.
For once you've met somebody the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant work or of a loving face.
Never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.

For be you relative or friend, or just someone that I've met,
You happen to be one of those I'd rather not forget
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.
So, as you read this message that I send at Christmas time,
Know that I send you all my love while you are on my mind.

(submitted by Margaret Crawford)

A SMILE

A smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive,
Without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts for ever. None is so rich or so mighty that he cannot get along without it, and none is so poor that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is nature's best antidote for trouble

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give a smile – give them one of yours, as none needs a smile as much as he who has no more to give.

Exotic Flowers...



...To cheer a Winter's day

(just 3 pictures of the gorgeous floral art which graced the church during the Festival of Banners and Flowers last Oct/Nov)



CHRISTMAS

For more than 25 years I was Santa Clause, Mrs. Clause, Rudolph and all the elves. I fought the shopping malls and the traffic. Christmas depended on me from the right shirt size to the consistency of the gravy. I was the creator of Christmas for my family and I was weary under the burden.

One year in early November I suddenly realized that Christmas was upon me again. But I was too exhausted to face another major production. I asked myself, "What does all this work and stress have to do with the birth of the Saviour?" Something was wrong. I had grown to hate Christmas. I seriously contemplated what would happen if I stepped out of Christmas. What if I left the front lines? Would Christmas happen? Would my family forgive me?

For my own survival, I retired. I stepped off the Christmas stage where I had been the star for so long. I made a small list and checked it once. There were fewer presents and limited festivities. And guess what? Christmas came anyway. It was quiet, peaceful. There was time to feel the season. Christmas was in the air. It was in my heart. I thought about Christ.

I have to admit that I worried about the reaction of my family. Some were disappointed. But there was more time to visit each other, more time to appreciate the gifts we opened. Christmas was more spiritual.

I realised that I had suffocated the real spirit of Christmas with all of my own trappings. Why had I assumed such a responsibility – to try to create a celebration to outshine the birth of Christ the child? That seemed sacrilegious now. My new theme for December became "Be still and know that I am God".

I will never go back. I have fully found the spirit of Christmas. But first I had to find the courage to let go. I had to trust that the spirit of that humble birth over 2,000 years ago would be felt without my efforts. It was, and this was the best of gifts I could have received or given.

Ed's note.

This article written by Lorraine F Day was handed in by Flo Rennie I just wonder how many of us recognise ourselves – or would like to recognise ourselves – as being this person!!

SCOUT NEWS



GSL's GLEANINGS

by Keith Strachan

The Group attended the St Andrew's Day Service at our Church, St Margaret's, Touch, today and I have to say well done and thank you to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and parents who all braved the elements to attend. Heavy rain and wind going in and driving snow when we came out. An interesting and thought provoking Service as we approach Christmas speaking and thinking about the people of Nepal still homeless after the earthquakes and the Syrian people displaced by the war there. Can we think of others ahead of ourselves this Christmas?

All the Sections have been very busy since the October holidays as can be seen from the Section reports. As we approach Christmas, the Beavers and Cubs especially, have been very busy preparing items to sell at the Christmas Fayre. These proved to be very successful and in particular we would be interested to hear back how successful the bird boxes have been in attracting birds in the Spring.

The Sections have continued to get out and about where possible. It is good to see some of our Explorers expanding their horizons and getting involved with other Explorer Units in District Events. Hopefully you will read about this in their report.

Numbers in the Group remain good. We are just about to see a group of Scouts progress up to Explorers after the Christmas holidays. This will see Explorer numbers rise after the exodus in the Summer. It has been good to see a number of the Explorers who left for college and university in the Summer come back to visit and help out.

The weather seems to have been particularly poor during recent weeks with our "Gardenathon" having to be cancelled and poor weather on many of the

evenings when we have been out. This is, of course, an extremely busy and exciting time of the year for the Group as a whole as we prepare for Christmas but also a major fundraising time for the Group. .

The Executive Committee once again ran an excellent Christmas Fayre in November with assistance from the Leaders, Scouts and Explorers. Thanks to Parents who came along and made the afternoon a success.

We are once again hoping for a lot of support from parents for our major fundraiser of the year, the Scout Post which we run along with the 2nd Fife Scout Group. This also benefits all the other Groups in the District who receive payment for collecting cards and for delivering them in their areas. During this week the Sections do not run. However, Graham McCreadie has once again organised a Group outing to the Pantomime at Carnegie Hall and the Scouts and Explorers are visiting the Ice Rink on the Thursday, so plenty options during this week. We do hope as many of you as possible gave up your time to help with the Scout Post and enjoy the fun of working together to achieve what we hope will be another resounding success.

Into the New Year and we will be looking forward to our Burns Supper where the Scouts and Explorers assist in serving our guests. On the 21st February we will attend St Margaret's Church to celebrate Founders Day. We will be celebrating 100 years of Cub Scouting in 2016 with various District events. Graham has also arranged a Family Camp at Nineacres, Crook of Devon in May which will be a first for my time in the Group and I am really looking forward to participating in this. We will once again be organising a Group Camp for all Sections and Summer Camp next year for Scouts and Explorers should be at Dilston, near Hexham.

Looking back, it has been a fantastic year for the Group with all the improvements to the hall that the Executive Committee have undertaken. This has set the Group up building-wise for many years to come as well as giving us a great looking hall. The Leaders have continued to provide excellent programmes despite all holding down full time jobs and the evidence for this is seen in the number of kids attending week in week out.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all when it comes.

Keith

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Property Committee Report

- New time switches for the heating system have been installed in the Church and it is hoped when they are up and running we will have a more efficient heating system.
- Light fitting have been replaced in the Vestry, the Session Room and the passage at the rear of the Church. A light has been installed above the side door of the Church which will light up the area surrounding the ramp for disabled people.
- In the Session room, remedial work is required to counteract rising damp, and in the Lower Hall shelving will be installed in the store room. A new distribution box (fuse box) has been installed in the flower kitchen to comply with present day regulations.
- It is hoped that early in the New Year, two parking bays will be provided for disabled people and a ramp formed for the benefit of wheel chair users.
- Attempts are being made, in the short term, to prevent roof leaks in the Kitchen and Upper Hall

Notes from the Fellowship Committee December 2015

- The Flower and Banner festival held from 29th October – 1st November was a great success. I'm sure all those who came will agree that the Church looked amazing. We managed to cover our costs from donations.
- The Christmas Fair on 21st November raised £2,000.
- We held an inter-church quiz on 30th November which was enjoyed by all.
- The baking stall continues to bring in a steady income of approx £50 per month.
- The café is still a great success with members of our congregation and community attending on a regular basis.
- The Afternoon Teas in the summer were also a great success and raised the sum of £730.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported these events in any way.

Communication And Outreach Report

December, 2015.

Due to holidays, illness and most of all a lot of work going on in the background, the group have not met since the last report. We keep in touch with each other at church to make sure that the projects we have on the go are making progress – and in the main they are.

- The Sunday taxi service has not attracted a lot of interest but as Elders go around their Districts it could be that more will come to our notice. Even though people only want to come along to communion we should take note of this and set some arrangement up. Please notify Audrey Lawrence or Ross Kerr of any interest.
- The Website I am sure you will agree is looking very good with Morna keeping it up to date. I still have not contacted the different groups within the Church to arrange for them to take ownership of their own part of the website – but this is coming I promise!!
- The church Christmas Card for the Parish has been produced. Many thanks to Iain for designing this, thanks to Irene for helping to print it off, thanks to Morna for putting the Cards into the envelopes with a little help from Ritchie and Ross! Now it is over to the congregation to make sure all the envelopes are delivered throughout the Parish. All the street names with the required number of envelopes were laid out in the Church for people to choose which streets they would deliver to.
- The normal version of the Church Magazine will be printed to cover January and February.

Ross Kerr

Chair

Etta's Charities and World Mission News

DUNFERMLINE FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you once again for the contributions to the foodbank, 126kg has been collected.

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

Items urgently needed are: juices (either long life or diluting), sponge puddings, mashed potato, sugar, non-food items such as washing up liquid, soap powder, gents deodorant and shaving foam.

STAMPS – ongoing collection

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

Stamps can also be sent to support the HIV Programme through the World Mission Stamp Project. Please save your Christmas card stamps for this very worthy appeal.

ERSKINE

A thank you letter was received from Erskine for the kind and very generous donation which will be used towards the services that they provide. Their mission is to provide their residents with the best possible care and to support them to achieve maximum quality of life. The generosity and commitment of donors will allow them to continue to care for as many members of the wider ex-service community as they can.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY 2016

Sunday, January 31st, 2016 is world leprosy day, a coffee morning will be held after the church service to support The Leprosy Mission Scotland. Through gifts, actions and prayers hundreds of lives have been transformed for the better. Children can be cured of leprosy, stopping disability and long-term problems if it is left untreated until adulthood.

NEWS SNIPPETS FROM THE WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

We have a new Mission Partner, Rev Kate Reynolds from Edinburgh, who together with her husband Justin, will be taking up the post of Minister at St Andrews in Tiberius. St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, Jerusalem was built to honour the many Scottish soldiers who died fighting the Turks during the Great War, ending Ottoman rule over Palestine. Kate and Justin left for Tiberius in November after a Commissioning service in Dunfermline Abbey.

We will be kept up to date with Kate's news by newsletter, details of which will be found in future copies of this magazine.

NEPAL

Joel Hafvenstein and his wife Fiona along with their sons Caleb (4) and Isaac (1) are joining the team at the United Mission to Nepal. Joel will become a Church of Scotland Mission Partner in Nepal. Both Joel and Fiona have had previous experience of working with Tearfund in Afghanistan and going out to other countries from the UK HQ.

They will be working alongside partners to reduce their risk to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods or drought and making people less vulnerable. For example in the case of earthquakes, making houses better able to sustain the quake or in drought developing drought resistant crops.

They both feel that it was a call from God that has drawn them to Nepal. After much time in prayer and talking to friends they felt very strongly that this was where God wanted them to be.

December/January edition of World Mission Magazine

Featuring:

1st December was World AIDS Day

There are 37 Million people in the world who are living with HIV.

Challenge and Change: Elena Sarra, HIV Programme Co-ordinator, explores the issues related to gender and HIV. The Church of Scotland HIV programme supports a number of partner projects across the globe that aim to empower women living with HIV to achieve financial autonomy through learning new skills and obtaining access to support groups and resources.

Lonely at Christmas: Our partner ALTERnativity is this year trying to understand what it means to feel lonely at christmas. They are collecting and sharing the stories of people for whom Christmas is not a happy, cheery time. They have also been developing resources that offer space for reflection, conversation, worship and action, and that people can 'pick n mix' depending what would work best for their situation. See their website for further information at www.alternativity.org.uk.

Christmas in Kolkata – the city of joy: Rev Swarup Bar, Presbyter in the Diocese of Kolkata, Church of North India (CNI) shares the vibrancy of Advent and Christmas in Kolkata. Christmas in Kolkata definitely is a multi-cultural and multi-faceted event upholding the spirit of joy and friendship for all.

Engaging and Empowering Ekwendeni's women: Marjorie Clark, HIV Programme Co-ordinator interviews Esther Lupafya, who coordinates Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS programme (EHAP) supporting vulnerable local women's self-help groups. The women have access to a savings and credit group where they pay an agreed amount each week into the group's account. This enables them to take out small interest loans, which they can use to invest in small scale businesses such as marketing vegetables, selling fish or baking doughnuts. This gets them started in generating income to afford school fees, buy clothes and food. It also gives them confidence and empowers them to be able to support themselves and their communities.

Bearing witness in Italy: Rt Rev Angus Morrison, shares about the social ministry of the Waldensian Church. (The Waldensian Evangelical Church is an Italian Protestant denomination and was founded in the 12th Century.) As moderator he visited the Waldensian Church, our partner in Italy, along with Ian Alexander of the World Mission Council and Martin Johnstone of the Church and Society Council. They visited congregations, met church leaders and saw significant areas of church work and witness supporting refugees in Rome, Sicily, Bescia, Torre Pellice and Turin.

The full magazine can be downloaded from www.churchofscotland.org.uk or I can give you a paper copy.

Etta Pratt

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St Margaret's Parish Church

Communion Duty 2016

Sunday March 20th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Walter Bowie

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mrs M Aitken | 5. Mrs N Bowie |
| 2. Mrs A Prentice | 6. I Hamilton |
| 3. Mr M Hynd | 7. J Anderson |
| 4. Mrs F Grieve | 8. T McIntosh |

Reserve: S Foxley

Sunday June 19th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Walter Faichney

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mrs E Pratt | 5. Mrs I Gillespie |
| 2. Mrs M Ellis | 6. J Adamson |
| 3. Mrs J McAleece | 7. D Clark |
| 4. Mrs I Cunningham | 8. R Kerr |

Reserve: I Telfer

Sunday September 18th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Millar Gordon

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mrs M Aitken | 5. I Hamilton |
| 2. Mrs A Prentice | 6. T McIntosh |
| 3. Mrs J Eadie | 7. J McLean |
| 4. Mrs M Hynd | 8. S Foxley |

Reserve : J McLean

Sunday November 20th

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: Ross Kerr

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mrs E Pratt | 5. Mrs I Cunningham |
| 2. Mrs M Ellis | 6. J Adamson |
| 3. Mrs J McAleece | 7. D Clark |
| 4. Mrs I Gillespie | 8. I Telfer |

Reserve: J Colville

Sunday January 8th 2017

Session Clerk: Ritchie Campbell

Senior Elder: W Bowie

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mrs J Eadie | 5. Mrs M Hynd |
| 2. Mrs M Aitken | 6. I Hamilton |
| 3. Mrs A Prentice | 7. J McLean |
| 4. Mrs J Eadie | 8. S Foxley |

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

FEB. 7	Mrs Cunningham	Mrs Gillespie	Mrs McAleece
14	Mrs McIntosh	Mrs McEwan	Mrs Margaret Hynd
21	Mrs Brown	Mrs Grieve	Mrs Moultrie
28	Mrs. McArthur	Mrs Chapman	Mrs Maureen Hynd
MAR 6	Mrs. Wilson	Mrs Gray	Mrs Pratt
13	Mrs Prentice	Mrs Robertson	Mrs Scoon
20	Mrs McCulloch	Mrs Evans	Mr. Mrs Kemp- McKinnon
27	Mrs Bowie	Mrs Stevens	Mrs Smith

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year.

Our meetings resume on January 20th, 2016, when our guest speaker will be Iain Greenshields. We meet on the first & third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Rita Elder Hall. A WARM WELCOME TO ALL LADIES.

St. Margaret's Parish Church, Touch

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CALENDAR FOR DELIVERY OF FLOWERS
3rd JANUARY - 25th JUNE 2016

January	3:	Ross and Janet Kerr	726663
	10:	Manuel Giraldes	07817904591
	17:	Walter and Nancy Bowie	737779
	24:	Audrey McArthur Merva Brown	728128 721661
	31:	Syd Foxley	725178
February	7:	Marion Smith	726510
	14:	Catherine Gray	732849
	21:	Eleanor Loudon	721256
	28:	Jim and Fiona Grieve	831614
March	6:	David Clark	734484
	13:	Janet Gresty	728104
	20:	Margaret Hynd	721314
	27:	Maureen Chapman	725049
April	3:	Rachel Wilson	734696
	10:	Jim and Linda Adamson	727719
	17:	Christine Hunter	721802
	24:	Isobel Gillespie	720199
May	1:	John and Sheila McLean	726919
	8:	Sheila McIntyre	735352
	15:	John and Diane Hynd	739341
	22:	Pam Moultrie	622329
	29:	Val Evans	725557
June	4:	Bobbie and Norrie Kemp McKinnon	733922
	11:	Ian Hamilton	738123
	18:	Walter and Nancy Bowie	737779
	25:	Manuel Giraldes	07817904591

Please free to change with members of the team if the date selected
suitable

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

2016 DATES

20TH FEBRUARY

"How should we respond to unexpected violence & tragedy in our communities and wider society?"

Discussion led by Rev. Colin McIntosh, formerly Minister at Dunblane Cathedral.

12 MARCH

"Role of the Chaplain in to-day's armed forces"

Discussion led by Rev. Dr. Peter Mills. Formerly Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, now Minister, Largoward with St. Monans

9TH APRIL

"What can we do as Christians, as a Church, to reach out and help the homeless & disadvantaged?"

Discussion led by Pauline Hoey, Gillespie Memorial Church

7TH MAY

"How can we successfully attract young people to the Christian faith?"

Discussion led by Pastor Jimmy Dowds, The Vine Church, Dunfermline.

We look forward to meeting up with current members of the group and importantly to all newcomers. These are interesting discussions with some very good speakers and topics. Breakfast is at 8.30 am and we finish no later than 10 am. Held in the Rita Elder Hall – for further information please contact Gordon Brown at 01577 840248

ORGANISATIONS

The Guild - Meet on the Second & Fourth Monday of the month at 7.15pm in the Rita Elder Hall – contact Margaret Hynd on 01383 721314

Bowling Fellowship - Meet every second Monday in the main hall at 6.45pm. Contact Tom MacIntosh on 01383 726342

Women's Fellowship - Meet from October to April on the first & third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in the Rita Elder Hall. It's a small group and newcomers will be made very welcome. Contact Mrs Helen Bell on 01383 725753

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

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

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

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

Men's Breakfast Group - Meet monthly on Saturdays from September - May at 8.30am. Contact Gordon Brown on 01577 840248

YOUTH

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

JAM (Jesus And Me) CLUB –Meet Sundays in term time at 5.45pm - 7.15pm (or 8pm for Seniors). Contact Linda Adamson on 01383 727719

GUIDES

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

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

2nd Dunfermline Guides meet on Wednesdays in the Rita Elder Hall at 7.15pm - 9.15pm. Contact Margaret Moyes on 01383 723003 or mob 07403 778879.

2ndA Dunfermline Guides meet on Thursdays in the Rita Elder Hall at 7.15pm - 9.15pm. Contact Anne Simpson on 01383 410490 or 07972181351

BEAVERS - CUB SCOUTS - SCOUTS - EXPLORER SCOUTS

Meet in the Scouts H.Q. Carron Grove
Contact Keith Strachan on 01383 735399.

Beavers - Mondays 6.30pm - 7.45pm

Cubs - Tuesdays 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Scouts - Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Explorer Scouts - Thursdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm

OFFICE BEARERS

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