

St Margaret's News
November/December 2016



In this issue

REMEMBRANCE –

Lest We Forget & Forget-Me-Not

PEACE+JOY+HOPE+LOVE

Services for Advent & Christmas

“Raise the Roof”

St Margaret's Christmas Fayre



Season's Blessings

To all our readers

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE MINISTER

It was a simple scene that first Christmas – a rough room, a young couple and nothing but a feeding trough to put the child in. It was probably quite cold and with family far away there was little help. Not exactly the warm cosy moment we show on a Christmas card or a nativity play. And yet this rustic scene marked the greatest event in the history of mankind.

God's Son became human and came to earth to save us. God had promised to send a Messiah, one who would save His people. He could have easily burst on the scene as a full grown man, a seven foot warrior with fiery eyes and arms of steel. This was what many people were looking for, but it wasn't how God did it. He arrived in the arms of a young girl. He was, as one writer put it, "a very small package, wrapped in rags, given from the heart of God. The perfect gift."

God gave His only Son to die in our place so that we, in all our brokenness, could know forgiveness. He came so that we could know what love feels like, real love – love that never leaves, love that never disappoints, love that is never betrayed. He sent His Son into a corrupted world to bring us hope.

What of us this Christmas?

Are you having a hard time finding hope in the world? Are you having a hard time finding peace? It doesn't have to be that way. You can have peace and find hope and know forgiveness through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He came to be known and to share with us eternal life. He still reaches out and asks us to reach back and receive the most precious gift we can, this Christmas or any other.

*God bless you,
Iain Greenshields*

Lest We Forget

November is of course the month of Remembrance when we remember all of those who gave their lives in conflicts all across the world. I recently was able to visit the National Arboretum near Stafford. It is a place of peace and quiet with sculptures, plaques and other memorials spread throughout the park. Some of them are quite large and striking – others not so much, but with impact and thought – and all there to remind us of the people who gave their lives so that we may live our lives. It is a place of deep reflection even to someone like me who did not lose any family in any of the wars – but am very aware of the sacrifice others did make so that I could live in a time of peace within my own country. You will all remember Bill MacKay who used to give the homage at our church Remembrance Day Service. He left us the story behind that homage, and here it is:

The Kohima Epitaph

“One or two members have asked me about the Kohima Epitaph which I referred to at our Remembrance Day Service. It is engraved on the war memorial at Kohima where the decisive battle of Burma was fought in 1944, at the same time as the D-Day landings in Normandy. The Epitaph dates from 480 BC when it was composed as a tribute to the Spartan troops who died at Thermopylae defending Athens from invasion by Persia. In 1944 General Slim's 14th Army similarly suffered heavy casualties defending India from invasion by the Japanese army. However, in a series of fierce jungle battles in and around Kohima they inflicted on the Japanese the biggest defeat in their military history and forced them to abandon their plans to invade India. The similarity between the two battles led those designing the Kohima War Memorial to relate it to the Spartans at Thermopylae and to include the epitaph composed in their honour. The epitaph as engraved at Kohima is dedicated to all the Commonwealth forces who served in Burma from 1941 to 1945.”

**“When you go home, tell of us and say,
For your tomorrow we gave our today”**

(Editor)



“Why Wear A Poppy?”

by Don Crawford

“Please wear a Poppy,” the lady said,
And held one forth, but I shook my head,
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on carefree feet,
His smile was full of joy and fun:
“Lady,” said he, “May I have one?”
When she pinned it on he turned to say,
“Why do we wear a poppy today?”

The lady smiled in her wistful way,
And answered, “This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is a symbol for
The gallant ones who died in war,
And because they did, you and I are free,
That’s why we wear the poppy, you see.

I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew,
And became a man – as you will, too.

But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the dreadful plight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night)
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
and the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

Till at last, at last, the war was won –
And that's why we wear a poppy, son.”
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, “Thanks lady, I'm glad to know,
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son – did he come back all right?”
A tear rolled down each faded cheek:
She shook her head but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same:
For our thanks, in giving, is oft delayed
Though our freedom was bought
And thousands paid.

And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all,
When asked to answer their country's call.
That we at home in peace might live.

Then wear a poppy, remember and give.



Don Crawford turned this poem, handwritten in pencil and on two sheets of foolscap, in to The Perth Courier one morning in the early 1960's, in which it was printed a few days later. Since then, "Why Wear a Poppy?" has appeared in a multitude of weekly newspapers and magazines, including Legion Magazine in Canada, and publications like Australia's Anzac Appeal and Scotland's Claymore magazine. Dominion Command of The Royal Canadian Legion has produced the poem on slides and tape for television and radio. And schools have used "Why Wear a Poppy?" extensively for their Remembrance Day programmes. Donald J. Crawford died in hospital at Perth, Ontario, on October 7, 2000.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

by John McCrae, May 1915

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.



Inspiration for "In Flanders Fields"

During the early days of the Second Battle of Ypres a young Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was killed on 2nd May, 1915 in the gun positions near Ypres. An exploding German artillery shell landed near him. He was serving in the same Canadian artillery unit as a friend of his, the Canadian military doctor and artillery commander Major John McCrae.



As the brigade doctor, John McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Alexis because the chaplain had been called away somewhere else on duty that evening. It is believed that later that evening, after the burial, John began the draft for his now famous poem.



Act of Remembrance



St Margaret's Remembrance Service is on
Sunday 13th November at 10am.

**After the Service, there will be a special Coffee Morning,
with all donations going to the Erskine Hospital charity in their
centenary year**

1916-2016



COMMUNION

You are warmly invited to join us at St Margaret's for

**Morning Communion
at 10am**

**Evening Communion
(a less formal, more intimate celebration)
at 7.15pm**

**On
Sunday 27th November 2016**

(please note that this is a week later than intimated in the Sep/Oct edition of the magazine)

(Why not attend both? The Evening Service is quite different to the morning one, and you cannot get enough of a good thing – Communion at the Lord's Table is the best "good thing" around!Ed)



Communion Duty

Sunday November 27th 2016

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 |

Elders please check the above lists and should you not be able to attend for duty, please inform Irene Cunningham straight away.

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES 2017

AS I will soon be preparing the FWO envelopes for 2017, it may be a good time to decide if you wish to continue with weekly envelopes or to have a monthly Standing Order instead. I used to find I did not have the correct cash at the last minute on a Sunday morning, but having switched to a monthly Standing Order there is no panic! I can give you the necessary bank details, etc. Just find me on a Sunday morning at church or telephone me on 728128.

*Thanks,
Audrey McArthur*

St Margaret's Door Duty Nov-Dec 2016

6-Nov	I Telfer S Foxley	Mrs F Grieve J Grieve
13-Nov	R Kerr Mrs D Hynd	Mrs M Hynd Mrs E Pratt
20-Nov	Mrs M McIntosh Mrs A McArthur Mrs M Watson Mrs S Richards	T McIntosh Mrs A Prentice Mrs M Chapman I Hamilton
27-Nov	J Colville Mrs A McArthur	Mrs A Prentice Mrs V Evans
4-Dec	Mrs I Cunningham Mrs I Gillespie	Mrs J McAleece Mrs C Gray
11-Dec	W Bowie J Adamson	Mrs N Bowie Mrs L Adamson
18-Dec	J McLean M Gordon	Mrs C McCulloch Mrs V Wilson
25-Dec	I Telfer S Foxley	J Thomson Mrs E Brown

NOTE: People on door duty attend in the vestibule before the service. After the service, one or two attend while congregation leave. The others can go through the back and assist with the counting of the money. Anyone unable to undertake their duties, or any part thereof, should arrange a substitute.

We have decided to cut the numbers on the door and therefore you will have to see if a congregation member will be willing to take a bag for the collection.

THOSE ON DUTY IN THE VESTIBULE DURING THE SERVICE PLEASE NOTE THAT SILENCE
MUST BE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE.

AUTUMN AT THE BROONS

*(This kindly sent in by Helen Brown – think she has missed her true calling!!
Poet Laureate???* Ed)

The summer sun is fading
The swallows all are flown
The fields are brown and furrowed
Now the crops have all been grown.

We've had our own wee harvest
Our fruit has all grown well
With just enough to eat and store
But not enough to sell!

Our raspberries kept us going
We grew them in big pots
We had to buy them in for jam
For that takes lots and lots!!

Our apple tree's been laden
And for cooking they are great,
And we gave away our surplus
Just outside our garden gate!

The summer birds the finch, the wren
Have been a pure delight
But now the barns are silent
As the swallows take to flight.

The robin speaks of autumn
With his early morning song
And starts to sport his bright red breast
For the winter months so long.

The harvest changes scenery
From green fields turned to gold
Tractors laying winter crops
To sleep in soil stone cold

Our summer sheep for cutting grass
Soon, no more we will need.
So fat and rested they'll go home
To get their winter feed.

Our chickens are a happy bunch
So long as they're well fed
They'll miss the lengthy daylight hours
With autumns early bed.

My horse loves the heat of summer
Grazing out all day
But autumn pleases her as well
As she loves the fresh made hay.

Our garden changes colour
With the shorter daylight hours
The brighter hues of summer
Fade to cooler autumn flowers.

And Autumn means the grass slows down
It's growing past its best
So the lawnmowers and Gordon
Can take a well earned rest!

We make sure we are well prepared
In case of winter storm
And build a store of logs and coal
To keep us cosy warm.

We never take for granted
The beauty of our place
We know that each and all delights
Are given by God's grace.

Each season has its beauty
Not one better than the rest
For in Gods time he made them all
And for that we are blessed.

J.A.M. Club

Following the school holidays, J.A.M. Club resumed and we were delighted to welcome back many of our "regular" boys and girls. It's encouraging to report that we have been blessed with several new members.

Our programme for the session has already been planned. It includes stories from the Bible which we wish to share with the children, object lessons which encourage everyone to think about making good choices in life and regular times of worship led by our minister, Iain. We have also planned special celebrations to mark Christmas, Easter and our final meeting of the session next summer. Experience has taught us the value of forward planning!

At the beginning of September we asked the boys and girls if they would like to help with a very special fundraising effort. Joyce, one of our loyal helpers, explained that her Mum has dementia and she wondered if we could do something which would help those who suffer from this illness. At J.A.M. Club we try to share the "highs and lows" in our lives and we have been impressed with the concern and compassion shown by the children at such times.....Joyce soon had a willing group of volunteers! The subject of dementia was sensitively discussed and many of the boys and girls spoke about relatives who had this illness- they were able to understand many of the problems and challenges which patients and their families have to face. So.....we had lots of eager helpers turn up to assist at the "Forget-me-not Coffee Morning" held on 18th September, following the Communion service. As a personal challenge, each child was given a "Heart" shape and asked to try to collect enough pennies to surround it. We were delighted to receive the wonderful sum of £20.04 from this effort! (Yes, it did take ages to count all the pennies!!!)

In October we introduced the boys and girls to the inspiring story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz. Ruth was an excellent example of how we should demonstrate care and concern for our family members- and put the needs of others before our own.

As you can see, we have had a very busy but productive time! We continue to include lots of different art and Craft activities, fun games, messy challenges (based on the theme of the week.) At the time of writing this report we are all enjoying the Autumn holidays.....and the opportunity to “re-charge our batteries!”

In November, one of our meetings will focus on the importance of Remembrance. We'll be using a tube of toothpaste to demonstrate why we need to think about the power of our words(this lesson will inevitably be very messy but, hopefully, it will prove the point that we cannot “take back” unkind words.) Pretzels will help us think about the importance of prayer.....we have discovered that the way to our children's understanding is often through their tummies!!!

In December we look forward to hearing all about the children's festive preparations.....”Santa requests”party invitations. It's a time of great excitement and fun for the boys and girls. As leaders, we will love sharing this special season with the children but our main aim will be to give them an insight into the true message of Christmas. We pray that they will come to know that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.





Roof Appeal

We are underway at last and we know what lies ahead of us in terms of the cost of re-roofing the Church - £130,000. An appeal was immediately launched and went out to every member of the congregation and the sum of nearly £22,000 has been donated [this figure includes £1360 of Gift Aid recovered from some donations and £5000 from the café]. A great start and thank you to everyone who has donated so far.

As well as funds raised, there have been promises of interest free loans amounting to £8,000 so far.

This IS an excellent start and the following Fundraisers lie immediately ahead of us:

- Saturday 19th November will be our Christmas Fayre and all funds raised from this will go to the Roof Appeal – please come along and support this effort.
- Wednesday 7th December the Guild are sponsoring a three course Christmas Meal which will be cooked and prepared by our Café Staff – the cost will be £15 per head and all profits will go to the Roof Appeal – numbers will be restricted to 40.
- Tuesday 13th December , 7pm- Christmas with Toccata – our friends will be returning to hold a concert and the cost of tickets will be £5 and 50% of all funds raised on the ticket price will go to the Roof Appeal.
- 24th December – 10.30pm – Mince pies and refreshments before Watchnight Service – all donations from this will go to the Roof Appeal.
- Remember too, that all profits from the Thursday Café will go to the Appeal and so as well as excellent food and company your attendance at the Café will make a difference.

If you wish to make a personal donation, just slip it into an envelope and hand it either to the minister, Moira Watson or Audrey McArthur and it will be placed in the designated fund.

Iain Greenshields

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The annual Christmas Celebration will take place on
Tuesday, December 13th at St. Margaret's Church.

Delighted to say that we will once more be joined by the TOCCATA LADIES' CHOIR from West Lothian. You should expect the same mixture of old and new carols, both to listen to and to join in with and of course the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas will be included – supervised by the Minister!!

Refreshments will also be served. Tickets will be available soon priced £6 and the Celebration will commence at 7 pm. Do come along and bring Family and Friends to what is always a most entertaining and enjoyable evening.

This is indeed an evening NOT TO BE MISSED! The Toccata Choir are wonderful and the quality of singing has always been enjoyed by all.

This is a great start to the Christmas festive activities – so bring along Family, Friends and Neighbours to really lift the roof off. After all we are replacing our roof next year so let's give it a good send off!!! (Ed)

St Margaret's Parish Church
Christmas Fayre
Saturday 19th November
11am –3pm

*Tombola—Bottles, chocolates
Bric a brac, crafts, books,
Decorations, home baking*

*Winter Wonderland downstairs with lots of fun for
the children*

CAFÉ open for Coffee and Light Lunches

Free pictures with Santa



Youth Advent Service

4th December

10am



Christingle Service

18th December 2016

10am



Watchnight Service

Saturday 24th December

10.30pm for Mince pies and refreshments

11.20pm Service



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday 25th December

10.30am

New Year's Day Service

Sunday 1st January 2017

2nd Fife & 39th Fife Scout Groups CHRISTMAS CARDS POST, 2016.

We are again providing a Christmas Post service this year at a remarkable low cost of 30p per card! Cards will be accepted for the following:

ABERDOUR, ALVA, AUCHTERMUCHTY, BACKMUIR, BOWERSHALL, BLAIRHALL, CAIRNEYHILL, CARNOCK, CHARLESTOWN, CLACKMANNAN, COALEDGE VILLAGE, COMRIE, COWDENBEATH, COWSTRANDBURN, CROMBIE, CROSSFORD, CROSSGATES, CULROSS, DALGETY BAY, DOLLAR, DONIBRISTLE VILLAGE, DUNFERMLINE, FORDELL VILLAGE, FREUCHIE, GOWKHALL, HALBEATH, HIGH VALLEYFIELD, HILL OF BEATH, HILLEN, INVERKEITHING, KELTY, KINCARDINE, KINGSEAT, KINGSKETTLE, LADYBANK, LIMEKILNS, LOCHGELLY, LUMPHINNANS, LOW VALLEYFIELD, MENSTRIE, NEWMILLS, NORTH QUEENSFERRY, OAKLEY, PATTIESMUIR, PITLESSIE, ROSYTH, SALINE, STEELEND, STRATHMIGLO, TILlicouLTRY, TORRYBURN, TOWNHILL, TULLIBODY, WELLWOOD.

PLEASE NOTE:

The following areas will NOT be covered:

BURNTISLAND, KINGHORN, EDINBURGH, GLENROTHES, KIRKCALDY, THE NORTH EAST FIFE VILLAGES OR ANY OTHER AREAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST ABOVE.

IMPORTANT:

CARDS CAN BE HANDED INTO THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER AND 4TH DECEMBER.

CARDS CAN ALSO BE HANDED INTO THE SCOUT HALL ON THE EVENINGS OF MONDAY 5TH, TUESDAY, 6TH AND WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER BETWEEN 6.30 pm AND 7.30 pm

(A great way of keeping your Christmas costs down as well as helping this important fund raiser for the Scouts.

ED.)



October 2016

Page 1

EXECUTIVE EXTRACTS

by David Marr

WELCOME.....

Welcome to our first newsletter after the summer break.

The Executive are gearing up for the busiest few months of the year in terms of supporting fundraising activities and tackling some of the general maintenance tasks we have. As always, your active participation and support for all these activities/events are critical to their success.

FUNDRAISING.....

Our fundraising activities allow us to continue to invest in the facilities and equipment for use by the Group. You may have noticed that the kitchen has now been completely refurbished and the main hall has been repainted. These changes will stand us in good stead for future events and hall use. We are also in the process of purchasing new computers and printers to support Group activities and tackling the painting of remaining rooms.

Some dates I would ask you to pencil into your diary are,



Sunday 30th October - Hallowe'en Party



- Sunday 6th November - "Gardenathon"
The annual tidy up of the grounds around the hall (any and all help is welcomed!).



The other major fundraising event we are looking forward to is the Christmas Scout Post. The bulk of activity in terms of sorting the post will take place in the hall

each evening between Monday 5th December and Friday 9th December, with delivery the week following this.

Last year we sorted and delivered over 30,000 cards which is a tremendous achievement. We will be issuing further information over the next month or so and really need as many of you as possible to get involved. Many hands really do make light work when it comes to the Scout Post and your support is critical in making it a success. Any time and help that you can offer would be fantastic.

COMMITTEE.....



As you know, the Group Executive Committee comprises a selection of volunteer parent and Section Leaders. We are still looking for someone to come on board as Secretary for the Group as Fiona has stepped down.

If you are interested in this role or in helping out more generally then please do drop either myself (dmar73@gmail.com) or Fiona McCreadie (fi_mccreadie@sky.com) a note.

Many thanks

David





INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to cope. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high heat.

Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked, "Daughter, what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied. "Look closer", he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity - the boiling water.

However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Moral: In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it. Life is all about learning, adapting and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.





October 2016

Page 3

GSL's GLEANINGS

by Keith Strachan

WELCOME.....

Welcome once more to our quarterly magazine.

GOING FORWARD.....

Hopefully you may be reading this online as we try to become more 'green' and issue less paper. Graham and Yolanda have both been active in sending out programme information by e-mail, text and actively use Facebook for the Beavers and Cubs. We also now have the Group's website as another source of information. Parents of Scouts have seen more use of text to advise what is happening. The Explorers also are being encouraged to take responsibility for arranging and knowing what their programme is without letters being issued. We are slowly getting there (no more slowly than others – a picture of a dinosaur could be inserted here if I was PC proficient enough!).



(We found this one of Keith on the internet! - Ed.)

ACTIVITIES.....

The season from Summer to October holidays is always a short one but all the Sections have packed lots into their programmes both indoor and out as can be seen from their reports. The only District event was the District Sports Day at Pirbright Sports Stadium in September when our Cubs, Scouts and Explorers achieved an overall 5th place.

More work has taken place in the Hall with the kitchen replaced together with further painting and it is looking fantastic. We undoubtedly have one of the best Halls in the Scout District and this is all down to the vision and hard work of our Group Executive Committee (Parents' Committee).

It is however an ongoing task to maintain the building and surrounds and we will always welcome new parents to become members of the Committee. It is not all work, we do have fun too!

LOOKING AHEAD.....

Next up we have the group Halloween Party on 30 October which is always good fun with traditional and messy games. This is closely followed by the 'Bardonathan' on the following weekend to tidy up the garden grounds around the Hall ahead of the winter.



At the end of November we have the St Andrew's Day Service at our Church, St Margaret's Touch for all the Group where we will renew Promises. I would encourage age attendance from all Sections to ensure we have a GOOD turnout for this Service.

The beginning of December takes us into the Scout Christmas Fest which requires lots of parent support for sorting and delivering. I would ask that as many parents as possible volunteer some of their time for this major fundraiser for the Group.

Graham has arranged the annual visit to the Pantomime in December and has almost sold out the allocation of tickets.

NUMBERS.....

As you can see, another very busy season coming up for all Sections and parents. Number-wise the Group continues to have around 120 children and young adults involved. Yolanda and Graham continue to do a great job in managing their numbers in Beavers and Cubs so we do not have children on waiting lists other than those not yet aged 8. This is no mean feat while still running excellent programmes with their leader and Explorer teams to continue to make the evenings fun. It is good to see parents also getting involved in these Sections through the Parent role, but we can always do with more help.

We are also retaining Scouts at the other end of the age spectrum with the current numbers in Explorers being the highest since we started the Section.

Keith



Etta's Charities and World Mission Page

DUNFERMLINE FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you once again for the contributions to the Dunfermline Foodbank, **75kg** 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 at present are: juices (either long life or diluting), steam puddings, mashed potato, red and brown sauce, cheesy pasta, fizzy juice, non-food items such as, soap powder, male and female deodorant, razors, toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, baby wipes, chocolate and crisps/snacks.

USED STAMPS - ongoing collection

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



Also supporting the World Mission Stamp Project 2016 for the Church of South India's Othara Eco-Spirituality Centre.

Stamps can be posted to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB or deposited in the envelope on the notice board in the Rita Elder hall.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 13TH NOVEMBER

Coffee morning after church service in Rita Elder hall, all proceeds to Erskine.

NEWS SNIPPETS FROM THE WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

Articles featured in the October/November magazine No 74 include:

- The World Mission Council is challenging Presbyteries and congregations to raise £500 to build a house in Nepal as part of a three year project in partnership with the United Mission to Nepal. So far over £220,000 has been raised.

- **A Night under Cardboard in downtown Annan**

In order to raise awareness of earthquake victims in Nepal, who are living in makeshift shelters, the World Mission Committee of Annandale and Eskdale Presbytery took up the challenge to raise money for the appeal. They decided to build a cardboard house and to spend a night in it. The event took place on Friday 9th September and five volunteers spent the night sleeping in the house. The weather was wet and windy and the experience highlighted the uncomfortable surroundings and vulnerability they felt. So far the total sum raised across the Presbytery has passed £4000, which far exceeded their expectations!

- **Prayer Focus:**

Dear God, We thank you for the wonderful gift of memory, individual and collective. Of opportunity to learn from people and from information about lives lived and lives transformed. Help us to leave behind a footprint of faith as we journey through life so others might be inspired to change our world.

Amen

Please pray for the protection and good health of all the staff and family members serving overseas with World Mission.

- **PALESTINE AND ISRAEL TRIP**

The World Mission is planning a trip to Palestine and Israel in April 2017. The group will meet our partners, get to know people who live in the area, and visit important historical sites. More information will be available in the weekly World Mission e-news update, on the website and in the next magazine issue No 75.

- **Lessons from Nepal**

Catherine Forsyth tells us about her trip to Nepal where she discussed and learnt about mental health and accessibility. She was struck by the similarities between the problem in both Nepal and Scotland.

- **Bringing Memories Home**

Catherine Hay visits Malawi after 50 years and talks of her experience, she still finds it to be the warm heart of Africa. One of the highlights for her was to visit Livingstonia where she served so long ago, and yes, a few tears were shed. Catherine left Scotland to serve as a Mission partner with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Livingstonia at The David Gordon memorial Hospital in Northern Malawi. She intended to stay and serve for many years, however after only two years she had major surgery and had to return home to Scotland. Catherine's thoughts were always with the people of Malawi who she loved so much and felt that she had left part of her heart there.

- **The Big Bustling, Noisy City – Life in Cairo**

Colin Johnston, Mission Partner in Cairo talks about his new home. He is working with the Synod of the Nile (also called the Evangelical Presbyterian Church) the biggest Protestant church, which has had a big impact spiritually and in social development. He describes Egypt as a crazy, exciting land, a mixture of the ancient and modern, of sophistication and extreme poverty, of the Middle East and Africa all coming together. The call to prayer from the minaret and the need to dodge people praying on their mats on the pavements testify that this is an Islamic country, yet Egypt has a long Christian tradition, stretching back to the beginnings of Christianity. Today over 10% of the population are Christian.

- **You can see for Miles... or can you?**

A story of how planting hundreds of different trees on a formerly barren hilltop has transformed a community, by bringing higher rainfall, cooler temperatures and strengthening community links.

Gereja Kristen Sumba (GKS, Christian Church of Sumba) in Indonesia is Church of Scotland's newest partner church and one of the most distant, the island being over 8,000 miles from Scotland. GKS is the largest church in a predominantly Christian island within the world's most populous Muslim country. A large proportion of the population, perhaps 90%, are

subsistence farmers. People are dependent on natural resources and have few opportunities to sell their product surpluses at a market. It is no surprise that Sumba is one of the 5 poorest of the 30 provinces of Indonesia. Due to the porous limestone and only one river the eco-system is fragile. The north of the island is very dry and has suffered drought for the past few years. The Rev Marlin Lomi (the first woman General Secretary of GKS mobilised her members to engage in a tree planting campaign initiated by the government. So planting of the forest has brought relief to the area and although the forest means you can't see for miles anymore the barren hill and community have be transformed.

If you want to read more of these stories please see the current World Mission magazine which can be downloaded from www.churchofscotland.org.uk or I can supply you with a paper copy.

Etta Pratt

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PARTNERPLAN

Kate Reynolds - Israel September 2016

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

kreynolds@churchofscotland.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Tiberias, where the summer is finally drawing to a close. After stifling temperatures regularly at 40C and above, it is so refreshing to be able to open the windows at night and feel a cool breeze.

I was having dinner with a friend at a Nazareth restaurant a few nights ago, and the only available table was outside. The staff kindly brought fleece throws for us to wrap around our shoulders to keep off the chill. However, the most exciting part of the evening was that on the way home, we had the first rain of the season; it may have only lasted a few minutes, but it brought with it the promise of new life after a summer of drought has left everything brown and scorched.



With the heat of the summer, the pace of life slows here. One of the highlights of the summer, however, was having the privilege of joining with some of our ecumenical colleagues in making a visit to Gaza. It was the first time since the war in 2014 that representatives from the Church of Scotland had been able to enter to meet with our partners, and it was my first time in the Gaza Strip. I had no idea what to expect. It was Ramadan, so the streets were quiet during the day as people mostly stayed out of the heat and fasted, not even drinking water during daylight hours. But the YMCA community centre, the vocational

training centres, the women's cooperatives we visited were buzzing with activity. It was incredibly moving to hear stories of resilience and to see such signs of life and hope and beauty in a place I expected to be filled with desolation and destruction.

Life is a daily struggle in Gaza. The water is not drinkable and is barely suitable for showering. Electricity is only on in many parts of the Strip for eight hours a day. Infrastructure is poor and shows no signs of improvement because so many supplies for rebuilding are limited or not allowed into the country, for fear that they would find their way into the wrong hands and be used to build tunnels or weapons. With just over 1,000 members, the Christian community feels particularly vulnerable. Each Christmas and Easter, when permits are granted to Christian families to visit Israel and the West Bank, more people leave and do not come back, searching for a better life for themselves and the younger generation.

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PARTNERPLAN

After my visit to Gaza, Justin and I escaped the heat and returned to Scotland for three weeks to see friends and family there. I had a week-long retreat in the highlands in a cottage I often go to when I need space to rest and reflect, and I returned from that time greatly refreshed.



However, out of the quietness of the summer months and the visit back to Scotland emerged a realisation for Justin and me as a couple that I am sad to share with you: after much conversation, prayer, and counseling, we have decided to separate. This is a decision that we almost certainly would have made regardless of our location and our work, but living in Israel, away from our normal support networks and social lives, made us more quickly aware of growing problems and differences between us.

A colleague of mine posted in a Facebook conversation about marriage and divorce recently:

'Marriage is hard. But for many, so is leaving. Leaving my marriage was the bravest, hardest thing I've ever done. But it was right for me, right for my ex, and right for the other relationships in our lives. We weren't whole when we were together. Marriage is important in the church, but I hope not more important than relationship, reconciliation or second chances.

'Also, I don't think the fact that my marriage ended means it was any less holy. The love and life we shared was that: love and life. But going through the pain of divorce gave us both the opportunity for new love, new life, better love, more complete life ... and isn't that what resurrection hope is all about?'

True wholeness and completeness of life can only come through Christ, of course. But there is great wisdom in my friend's words, which express our emotions better than we are able to do at this stage. So it is with a strange mix of sadness, courage, and poignant hope that we have agreed that Justin will return to the UK in early October and I will remain in Israel.

Autumn last year seemed like a miracle as I watched the rain slowly refresh the earth, witnessed rivers appearing in the desert, and saw new life emerging from ground that had looked so barren only weeks before. This is the image I have in my mind as we navigate the desert landscape in this phase of our lives. I pray and hope that this will be an opportunity for each of us to experience a flourishing of new life.



We both have been so grateful for the love of our friends and families who have prayed and hoped for us when we have not felt able to pray and hope for ourselves. And I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support shown to me by new friends and colleagues here.

Alongside all of this, life here continues. Pilgrim groups are returning to the area after a quiet summer, and it's been particularly good to have some of them join us for worship on Sunday evening. I celebrated the 34th anniversary of the founding of House of Grace a couple of weeks ago, and will go olive picking with Sindyanna at the Scots grove (supported by the Church of Scotland) soon. The Jewish community is preparing for a season of High Holy Days throughout October. Some of the staff at the hotel are off on exciting holidays before the busyness of the

PARTNER PLAN

autumn season. Plans for a refurbishment of St Andrew's church are slowly making their way through the labyrinthine approval process of councils and committees back in Scotland.

Friends, I want to thank you for your continued support, for your encouraging words and the ways you have shared your lives with me. It is always good to hear from you, so please do be in touch as you are able. One of the things I miss most about life in Scotland is being able to browse the shelves of bookstores; here all the books are in Hebrew and the English offering is rather paltry. So as the nights draw in here and there, I'd love to hear your recommendations, especially fiction! Thank you most of all for your prayers, and please know you are in mine.

I wish you every blessing

Kate

Prayer requests:

Pray for all the people of this land, especially as there has been a rise in tension and violence in recent weeks.

Pray for our partners working with olive farmers during this time of olive-picking and harvest.

Pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters during their High Holy Days.

Pray for the staff in the Scots Hotel, as they offer hospitality and service to pilgrims and visitors.

Pray for the pilgrims and visitors, that they will hear the voices of the living stones of this land and encounter Christ in the people, not only in the sites.

Pray for Kate as she remains in Israel, and Justin as he returns to the UK, and both of them as they face the difficult decisions that lie ahead.



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Charity Number SC011353

Finance Committee Report

Members of Finance Committee

Moira Watson, Audrey McArthur, Vera Wilson, Sarah Richards, Val Evans, Alan Prentice.

Hello everyone

I hope you have all had a good summer and are enjoying the glorious Autumn colours around at the moment. Work on the church improvements are more or less complete now so I hope you will agree that largely thanks to the efforts of our "Painter in residence" Manuel and our new cleaning "Angel" Dawn our surroundings have improved greatly.

Our financial position as at the end of October is as follows:-

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
INCOME	£86,771	£73,100
EXPENDITURE	£91,558	£90,100

As you will see from the above figures we are in a better financial position this year than we were at the same time last year despite all the major works that have been undertaken over the last few months and our running costs in the future *should* be cut considerably due to the boiler upgrading. To date we have received over £19,000 in donations to our dedicated Roof Fund, which is an excellent start to our fundraising efforts. If anyone has any ideas for raising funds we would be delighted to hear them so get your thinking caps on! Indeed - any comments, queries or suggestions you might have on any subject will be very welcome. You can talk to any member of the finance or fundraising committee or drop a note in the post box on the upper landing outside the Rita Elder Hall.

Best Wishes to you all

Moira

OUR NEW CHURCH MUG

HELP TO RAISE THE ROOF BY BUYING AS MANY OF THESE MUGS AS YOU NEED FOR THE HOUSE!! ONLY £6 EACH AND AVAILBLE FROM IRENE CUNNINGHAM.
EXCELLENT VALUE

AND FOR AN EXCELLENT CAUSE



TEA & COFFEE ROTA

Nov	6	Mrs. Prentice	Mrs. Pratt	Mrs. Smith
	13	Mrs. McArthur	Mrs. Scoon	Mrs. Telfer
	20	Mrs. Wilson	Mrs. Todd	Mrs, Gray
	27	Mrs. Brown	Mrs. Mgt Hynd	Mrs. McCulloch.
Dec	4	Mrs. McIntosh	Mrs Chapman	Mrs Grieve
	11	Mrs. Cunningham	Mrs Gillespie	Mrs. McAleece
	18	Mrs. Bowie	Mrs. Moultrie	Mrs. McEwen.

2017

Jan 8	Mrs. McCulloch	Mrs. Gray	Mrs. Maureen Hynd
15	Mrs. Prentice	Mrs. Pratt	Mrs. Telford
22	Mrs. Brown	Mrs. Scoon	Mrs. Smith
29	Mrs. McArthur	Mrs. Todd	Mrs. Margaret Hynd

Unfortunately Mr & Mrs Kemp-McKinnon have had to resign from the tea & coffee team. We thank, most sincerely, Bobbie and Norrie for all their faithfulness and willingness and give our very best wishes to them.

FLOWER CALENDAR, 2017

Thank you to all who give donations for flowers in memory of a loved one on an anniversary birthday or wedding. Each week the Church is decorated with flowers and after the service the flowers go out to members of the congregation who are sick, even in hospital or have lost a loved one. I know they are very much appreciated. If you wish to donate flowers please add your name to the calendar which will be in the church from Sunday or phone Mrs. June McAleece on 724992

FLOWER CALENDAR Nov-Dec 2016

Date	Donor	Tel No.	Arranger	Tel No.
Nov 6	Mrs M Watson	07766295705	June McAleece	724992
Nov 13	Mr and Mrs W Bowie	737779	Nancy Bowie	737779
Nov 20	Mr and Mrs J Cunningham	731947	June McAleece	724992
Nov 27	The Guild	721314	Coleen Watson	721284
Dec 4	Marjory McIntosh	726342	Marjory McIntosh	726342
Dec 11	Merva Brown	721661	Marion Aitken	735996
Dec 18	Moira Watson	07766295705	June McAleece	724992
Dec 29	Mr & Mrs I Carlton	721049	Audrey McArthur	728128

St. Margaret's Parish Church, Touch.

*

CALENDAR FOR DELIVERY OF FLOWERS

3rd JULY - 18th DECEMBER 2016

July	3rd:	Syd Foxley	725178
	10th:	Ross and Janet Kerr	726663
	17th:	Jim and Isobel Stewart	725513
	24th:	Eleanor Loudon	721256
	31st:	Marion Smith	726510
August	7th:	Audrey McArthur Mervyn Brown	728128 721661
	14th:	Ian and Lorna Telfer	731408
	21st:	Tom and Marjory McIntosh	726342
	28th:	Marion Aitken	735996
September	4th:	Jim and Fiona Grieve	831614
	11th:	Isobel Gillespie	720199
	18th:	Rachel Wilson	734696
	25th:	Christine Hunter	721802
October	2nd:	Janet Gresty	728104
	9th:	John and Diane Hynd	739341
	16th:	Margaret Hynd	721314
	23rd:	Maureen Chapman Catherine Gray	725049 732849
	30th:	Val Evans	727557
November	6th:	Walter and Nancy Bowie	737779
	13th:	Jim and Linda Adamson	727719
	20th:	John and Sheila McLean	726919
	27th:	Pam Moultrie	622329
December	4th:	Sheila McIntyre	735352
	11th:	Bobbie and Norrie Kemp -McKinnon	733922
	18th:	Syd Foxley	725178

Please feel free to change with members of the team
if the date selected is not suitable

ST MARGARET'S MEN'S GROUP
PROGRAMME FOR 2016-17

*A warm welcome to men of any church, or none – please join us for any of our
Breakfast Discussion meetings.*

For more info, contact Gordon Brown on 01577 840248

These meetings take place on a Saturday morning, starting with an (optional) cooked breakfast at 8.30am, followed by the speaker and then discussion – we finish around 10am, so this can fit nicely into whatever plans you have for the rest of the day!

- 12 November ***“Communication in & from the church”*** - Discussion led by Rev John Chalmers, Principal Clerk to the Church of Scotland
- 10 December ***“Can secularism and Christianity co-exist in society?”***
Discussion led by Colin Emerson, Edinburgh Secular Society
- 19 February 2017 ***Joint meeting with Fossoway & Cleish Men's Group at Crook of Devon – topic to be notified***
- 11 March ***“Is there still a time and a place for an ethical conscience in business and industry?”*** - Discussion led by Ian McMillan, former SSE Director: Session Clerk, St Leonard's-in-the Field, Perth
- 8 April ***“Can and should churches unite?”*** - Discussion led by Rev Ron Greig, Livingston United Parish Church
- 13 May ***“How do we envisage and relate to our Trinitarian God?”*** –
Discussion led by Rev Iain Greenshields

THANK YOU

ROSS & JANET KERR WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT CARDS, FLOWERS, MADE TELPHONE CALLS, VISITED AND PRAYED FOR US DURING ROSS' VISIT TO HOSPITAL RECENTLY. ALSO THANKS TO DR. REV. IAIN GREENSHIELDS FOR TRECKING ACROSS TO THE ROYAL INFIRMARY IN EDINBURGH TWICE TO VISIT DURING ROSS' STAY IN HOSPITAL.

ALL THIS WAS VERY COMFORTING AND VERY WELCOME AT THIS TIME AS ARE THE COMMENTS BEING MADE PERSONALLY NOW THAT ROSS IS ATTENDING CHURCH.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE BUT OF COURSE NOT AS QUICKLY AS ROSS WOULD LIKE!!!

SINCERE THANKS TO YOU ALL

ROSS & JANET.

THANK YOU



As this is the last edition of the magazine for 2016 I do want to thank all those who have contributed over the year – it's because of those contributions that the magazine exists so do please keep them coming in 2017 – and do feel encouraged to “expand” your thoughts and give us some interesting articles. Let me decide whether they are suitable or not!! To those that remain “silent” do make 2017 the year when you hand something in – whether it be articles of interest, things that are happening in your group, giving us a report of what you do in your group or a favourite poem – come on – give it a go!! My continued thanks to David Langskaill for allowing me to include articles from the 39th Scout magazine, to Morna Thomson for putting the magazine up on the web-site, to Irene and Jim Cunningham for printing off the many copies of the magazine and to Alex Turner for joining Janet and myself in stapling it all together!!

Ross Kerr (Ed)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship would like to thank **Mrs. Betty Potter** for her years of dedicated service as President. We would also like to thank **Heather** for providing the music for our worship.

Would ladies please note our meetings are now on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month.

FANTASTIC FORGET-ME-NOT RESPOSE



For the truly magnificent response to our Forget-me-not fundraiser in aid of Dementia charities. Thanks to your generosity and help at the Coffee Morning and Craft Sale, as well as donations given by folks who could not be there in person, the total raised was

£1,000!

This will be divided between enrichment activities at Queen Margaret Hospital's Ward 2 & research into this condition, which touches so many of our lives, through Alzheimer Scotland.

Joyce Copland would also like to thank Linda and the children of JAM Club and all who helped make this such a success.

...and finally, just in case all the Christmas preparations are getting a bit too fraught...

A CHRISTMAS STORY

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 early in November I suddenly realised 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 with 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 my own trappings. Why had I assumed such a responsibility – to try to create a celebration to outshine the birth of the Christ 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 finally 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.

(I think many of us will recognise this situation – especially among the ladies! Wonder how many of us could follow the above example??

This was given to me and the author is Lorraine F. Day. Ed.)

ORGANISATIONS

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

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

The Guild - Meet on the first & third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Rita Elder Hall – contact Margaret Hynd on 01383 721314

Women's Fellowship meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Rita Elder Hall. Contact Helen on 725753

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

Ladies Badminton - Meet for social Badminton every Wednesday at 10.00am - 12 noon in the Church Main Hall. Contact Cherry O'Sullivan on 01383 720594

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

Men's Breakfast Discussion Group – Meets once a month on a Saturday morning from September - May at 8.30am (see website or programme in the magazine for actual dates and/or contact Gordon Brown on 01577 840248)

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

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

Rainbows - Meet every Tuesday in the Rita Elder Hall at 6.15pm - 7.30pm Contact Anne 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 Thursdays in term time, from 7.15-9.15pm.

For more information, please contact Anne Simpson on 01383 410490 or 07972181351

BEAVERS - CUB SCOUTS - SCOUTS - EXPLORER SCOUTS

Meet in **the Scouts H.Q. Carron Grove**

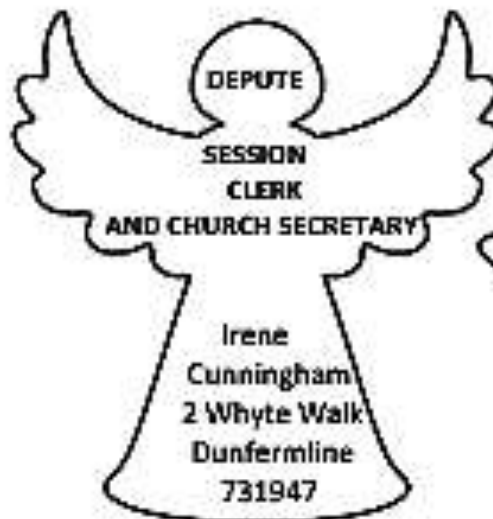
Contact Keith Strachan on 01383 735399.

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



Registered charity no. SC 007080