



# Church Family

## **New Members**

Mrs Rena Berg  
Mrs Helen Graham  
Mrs Nancy Youngson  
Mrs Connie Dobson  
Mrs Mary Barber  
Mrs Ann MacKay  
Mrs Elizabeth Miller  
Mrs Pamela Gordon  
Mrs Gina Lowe  
Mr Paul & Mrs Donna Robertson

## **Members Left**

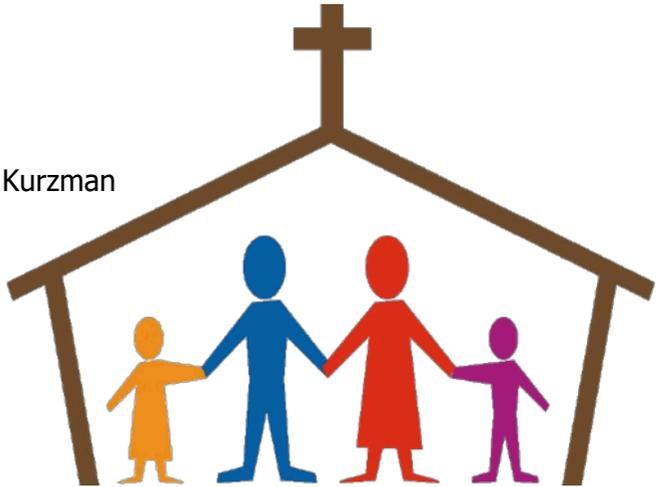
Mrs Margaret Macfarlane  
Mrs Lesley Gilmour  
Mrs Christine Corner  
Mr Norman & Mrs Judith Kurzman  
Mr Ben Kurzman  
Mr Harry Owens.

## **Deceased**

Mrs Sybil Taylor  
Mr James Baird  
Mr David Beckett

## **Baptisms**

Abigail Rose Gordon, daughter of Graeme and Pamela  
Jonathan Iain Macfarlane Lowe, son of Chris and Gina  
Katie Eve Harvey, daughter of Craig and Vicki  
Sophie Elizabeth Harvey, daughter of Craig and Vicki



# MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Over these past few months Shakespeare has featured on TV and radio, in newspapers and magazines, offering us insights, readings, new interpretations; and of course helped us understand that Shakespeare was not simply a writer who knew how to string words together, but he also knew how to connect words into phrases that we use in everyday language, generally unaware of whence they have come.

A much older set of writings - The Bible - has also offered us many phrases we use.

Some are more obvious than others – perhaps!

'You reap what you sow'. 'Doubting Thomas.' 'He's been made a scapegoat.'

'It's a labour of love.' 'Manna from heaven.'

But also some which are a bit more obscure:

'A man after my own heart.' 'Worthy of his hire.' 'A drop in the ocean'. 'The apple of my eye.' 'A little bird told me.' 'He couldn't lace his boots.' 'I'm at my wits' end.' 'The twinkling of an eye.' 'Make hay while the sun shines.' 'The half has not been told.'

(Maybe a wee exercise for the summer months - to find these and their original context.)

Yet of course, it is what we do with our words that matters.

Our faith is similar. We can have it and hold it and be very clever in our debates and discussions; but it is what we do with our faith in the world; what we do with our faith day by day, that affects others, that affects the world we live in.

Again we need both – to remember the *source* of our faith, and *to use* that faith well.

So, as we have some fun finding the source of sayings from Scripture, we also need to consider how our faith is active; the proof to others that we DO believe what we say we do.

'Fight the good fight.' It will become 'crystal clear'. He holds us 'safe and sound'. 'It is a labour of love', God's love for us. So don't be 'a fly in the ointment.' 'The writing is on the wall'. Trust in 'the powers that be'.

Another musing done! And I think, maybe, 'I've escaped by the skin of my teeth'.

# Parish Assistant's Patter

**WOW** I can't believe I will have been the Parish Assistant for 12 weeks by the time you read this. How blessed I feel to have been given this wonderful opportunity, and to work with amazing people; who continue to help me to grow in my faith and personal journey.

I have been a member of DPC for 21 years, having moved through from the West coast.

I have two wonderful children and a dog. My son graduated from university last year and now works and lives in Singapore. My daughter is based in Glasgow and is studying Psychology at Strathclyde University. I have a very handsome Tibetan Terrier called Benji, who I frequently walk along the coastal paths.

I worked for the Education department for 25 years primarily as an Early Years Officer at Donnibristle Primary School. Following a career change I went to work for the Family and Community Support Team as a Family Support Worker. Supporting families in crisis and working with children in school were my main roles. I facilitated a variety of parenting groups, teen groups and delivered various set programmes to children and their parents. I worked very closely with other agencies including Child Protection to ensure the best outcomes for these families.

My hobbies include, walking, reading, gardening, cooking, dancing and hopefully back to skiing at the end of the year!

**"I've seen the dance moves!!!"**



I have been extremely busy in post so far attending various conferences/workshops, networking meetings. I have jointly visited all the schools/nurseries, Day Care and Henderson House with Christine. It was lovely being able to take story time at playgroup, the children sat beautifully. I have really enjoyed my pastoral visits, everyone has made me feel so welcome, a huge thank you to you all.

## My vision:

- **Set up a Dementia group in DPC**
- **Run "The God Question"**
- **Run the "Bubblegum and Fluff" programme**
- **Good partnership working with the schools/nurseries/playgroup**
- **Work with the youth**

If you see me around the church, community or out a walk with Benji please stop and introduce yourself and have a chat.

Sincere blessings,  
Fiona



# ENGCONGOLWENI

Sunday 1 May was an auspicious day for Engcongolweni Church, as it saw the ordination and induction of Rev Nase Chunga into the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. For Mr Chunga who had arrived at Engcongolweni last December, this was the culmination of his studies and the start of what we pray will be a long, happy and fruitful ministry. Our good wishes were sent to him and the Engcongolweni congregation and we look forward to welcoming him and our other visitors, in September.



The good news of his ordination was tempered by the knowledge that Malawi had been suffering from torrential rains which had hit the north of the country, destroying much of the crops. Food security continues to be a problem in Malawi (and other sub-Saharan African countries) and may well be a topic that our visitors will want to discuss when they come.

Arrangements for the visit (9 – 22 September) are progressing well but there are still some gaps to fill. Our friends from Engcongolweni are our visitors and we wish to show them the hospitality that Scotland is renowned for. Every time we have gone to Engcongolweni the welcome and hospitality we have received has been truly memorable, with people not being able to do enough for us. We would like to show them that we know how to look after guests! Elma Doig is looking after hosting and she still requires some names to be able to offer bed and breakfast, and some evening meals for our visitors. We are asking for people to host our visitors (generally B&B) for no more than 1 week, which means we need 12 homes during the visit period (either 9-15 or 16-21 September). Most lunches will be provided at the Church. If you can help with accommodation, evening meals or lunches, please speak to Elma.

As far as our funding is concerned, we have raised over £5,000 in grants and sponsorship. Through our own efforts, and generous donations, we have added between £3,000 - 4,000 to that, leaving us still to find in the region of £2,500. Our Bring & Buy stall will run on the last Sunday of June and then every Sunday during July and August. It has home-baking, preserves, books, plants, cards... Make sure you buy early – the scones seem to go very quickly!

Don't forget to hand in your Smartie tubes (you can always have a second, or third one!) and your £10 Talents scheme money by the end of July. The Quiz forms should be returned by 29 May ...and if you're struggling, here is a clue - the answer to No. 4 is not a town on the mainland.

Coming up is our Summer Fun Day on Saturday 16 July, running from 12noon. Hannah and Tara are organising a fantastic afternoon of fun. Come for lunch, courtesy of Men's Breakfast Club, and stay for cake with the Guild. Amongst lots of fun things, there will be an opportunity of throwing a custard pie at some congregational 'notables' – come and test your aim! If that does not take your fancy, there will be plenty of games and stalls to attract your attention. You can also take part in our sponsored (static) bike ride, either by riding for 30 minutes (and getting sponsored to do so) or just by sponsoring someone who is. **PLUG!** If you wish to be a sponsor, Robin Arnott has volunteered to jump on the bike and cycle for (at least half an hour). He will be happy to ride (at least, that is what he says!) and be sponsored. Add your name to the sponsor list on the "Don't Pass By" table.

In Malawi, passports have all been obtained and visas are in course of application. Our programme is filling up. Some of the highlights will include sharing in Communion with us on 11 September; an 'open' evening that same day for Church and Community; a visit to the Church



of Scotland's World Mission Council at '121'; a lunch with the Rotary Club; primary schools' visits and a Songs of Praise evening; not to mention the Harvest ceilidh on the 17 September. The Dalgety Bay Friends of Engcongolweni have offered to take them to Edinburgh for a day and the Rotary Club have very kindly sponsored a trip around Fife, where they can savour the delights of Falkland Palace, St Andrews, the East Neuk and enjoy a fish supper from the award-winning fish and chip shop in Anstruther.

We want to make sure they go home with lots of memories. Let us make this a memorable visit for our friends so that we can move forward together in Christ – Umoza mwakhristu.

**Robin Arnott**

# **CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Busy, busy, busy .... Congregational Development continues apace! The Seder Meal held in the church on Maundy Thursday was enjoyed by nearly 60 people and there was a lovely buzz of conversation right from the very start of the evening. Christine led us through the traditions of this special meal and related it to how we now celebrate Communion and to how the disciples had met for the Last Supper. As well as learning about why we were having salted water and bitter herbs, amongst other things, it was great to get to know a few more church folks in a social setting. Many thanks too to all those who helped with the clearing up afterwards: it got it all done so much more quickly.

Following the success of Stewardship's Café Church service in April Kirk Session has asked that Congregational Development take on the continuity of this new style of worship at Dalgety. Already a new group has formed (new members always welcome) and the next Café Church will be held on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> June. If you didn't come to the last one, please make an effort to get to this one if you can. It is very relaxed and gives everyone an opportunity to chat together in small groups about topics which relate to life as a Christian as well as times of worship and prayer in a café setting. We are, as always, keeping in touch with the church groups who meet in the building so look out for a visitor at some point throughout the year to your group and if there is anything we can do to help in any way just ask.

Veronica Simpson  
Convener  
Congregational Development Group



# MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church continues to be an exciting time for families to come together to learn, to worship, to be creative, to have fun and to share a meal together.

On Palm Sunday we met to share the experiences of the events leading up to Good Friday and celebrated knowing that Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday. We used the Easter reflection area in the hall for our main focus and opening activity. Through a number of crafts we learnt about how much God loves us, we washed feet (after painting them!), made crosses, planted seeds to symbolise new life and flowers to decorate our tomb in the Hall of Fellowship. People wrote prayers on crosses and placed them inside the tomb, an act of giving over our concerns and problems to God and being able to leave them with Him. Before we ate our meal together we shared bread sticks and grapes. It was a lovely introduction to communion. As always, we had lots of fun, food, fellowship and just a wee bit of mess too!



We are in the middle of planning for our Messy Weekend which will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm for tea, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am for breakfast and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 12 for lunch, each day we will have lots of Messy activities following our meal and on the Sunday afternoon we are looking forward to having Fischy Music joining us. Please pray for this weekend and think about who you could invite to come along ... neighbours, grandchildren, friends. Invitations will be available nearer the time. Also any willing helpers are always very welcome!



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# The Guild

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***'GO IN PEACE'***



After a very interesting season, it's now time to get ready for the next Guild year. We meet between September and April on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month and the hard working committee meet over the summer, planning for the next session.

We heard from Muriel Raynor who delivered the Christmas Shoe Boxes to children in Belarus: the joy on their faces was immense. This was just one of the many speakers who gave their time to show us how much work goes on in other areas, which do so much good. It also encouraged others to start filling a shoe box.

Our Project speakers were from 'Care for the Family' which is helping new families in difficult times and from 'Prospects', a project helping people with learning difficulties to be included in church life.

We ran coffee mornings and a quiz/beetle drive evening to raise funds for the projects and we are currently compiling a COOK BOOK. We know there are many great cooks and bakers in the congregation and we would really appreciate you taking the time to hand in any recipes to the church office, hand them to any Guild member or send them electronically to [elmadoig@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmadoig@yahoo.co.uk). Watch for the book on sale in September.

We also had fun evenings learning about St Bridget, decorating the Easter prayer tree and a Fish & Chips night with the Annual Gathering DVD. The Gathering will be held again this year in Dundee Caird Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The theme for this year ties in with the Guild's theme for 2016 - 'Go in Joy!' This is always a great day of worship, celebration and friendship and fun.

***'GO IN JOY'***

Going forward we have chosen our two projects for 2016/2017 and are in the process of completing the syllabus for this year.

'BREAKING THE CYCLE of FGM -- Our support can help to empower women and girls in Kenya to fight the horrendous practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

HAITI PROJECT -- Mission International is a Christian Charity based in Dundee and the aim of this project is to construct a multipurpose building to be used as a school community centre and new church. Haiti is amongst the poorest countries in the world and has one of the poorest literacy rates. With the prayer support of the Church of Scotland Guild together with raising the awareness of the plight of the Haitian people, we hope to make a real practical and spiritual difference.

Watch for information on our notice board in the hall of fellowship and on the weekly order of service.

We wish you all a very enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at the Church of Scotland Guild Meetings in Dalgety Parish Church Hall.

***BE BOLD, BE STRONG***



# **Summer Fair & Fun Day**

Dalgety Parish Church Car Park

12-4 pm

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July

All Welcome For Fun, Food,  
Games and Stalls

# Did you Know?

## The church which became the Leith School of Art

In the autumn of 1863 a young theologian, Johann Cordt Storjohann, arrived in Leith from Norway to study The Free Church of Scotland. He was amazed at the hustle and bustle of the busy port containing large numbers of ships from the Nordic countries. In fact, records from that year show that 3,500 Scandinavian sailors visited Leith.

In those days the life of a sailor was harsh indeed and as our theologian was already familiar with the welfare work carried out by the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, he decided to do something to help. His plan was that the sailors should have a place where they could not only meet on a permanent basis, but also hear the gospel in their own language. Not one to drag his feet, Storjohann started religious services on board the ships, usually out on deck and up to forty sailors would attend at any one time. The idea of the need for a "Seaman's Church" was born.

Financial help came both from the Scandinavian countries and the local community in Leith and in August 1868 the church was inaugurated by Storjohann, who had promised to return to Leith for the occasion. Among prominent people present were representatives from the Church of Scotland. The church was to become the first Seaman's Church in Europe, and when in 2014 a delegation from the Seaman's Mission in Norway visited all the Seaman's Churches in Europe, Leith was literally and metaphorically their first port of call.

A staunch supporter of the new church was Christian Salvesen, who had settled in Leith from Norway in 1851. As a prominent ship owner, the wellbeing of sailors had always been close to his heart and he supported the church in every way.

The church continued to be a success and was regularly visited by Norwegian sailors docking in Leith. As the years passed Leith docks became less busy, but the church became a meeting place for the Norwegian students at Edinburgh University and Heriot Watt. I have fond memories of the church, I was married there and both my sons were christened there.

Today the church has become the Leith School of Art. It was opened in 1988 and is today a sought after place of study for aspiring artists. Somebody asked me how I felt about the church now being a school of art. I was reminded of something one of my favourite painters, Vasily Kandinsky said, "Art is the greatest expression of the human spirit". I think the church is in good hands.

## Eva Tyson



**The interior of the church 1962, note the ship hanging down from the ceiling, a characteristic of all the Seaman's Churches.**

**Photo credit: The Norwegian Seaman's Mission**

## Girls' Brigade

Our small but loyal group of girls has been working hard. Our theme this session has been ' All things pink and beautiful ' and we have made flamingo bags, footprint unicorn pictures and fairy gardens and we are now doing about ballerinas. We also sometimes make yummy things to eat!

Our teddy bear mascot Rosie has been staying with the girls and has been enjoying activities outside G.B. Some of what we have been doing can be seen on our notice board in room 2.



If you have any skills you would be happy to share with the girls we would be pleased to see you. We meet on Tuesday evenings 6.30 - 8pm.



Christian Aid raises money for the poorest and most needy people in the world. It supports the victims of floods, earthquakes, war and other disasters. It helps them flee from the threat and, when the danger is past, it helps them move back and rebuild their homes.

Christian Aid also helps poor communities. There are people who through no fault of their own live in poverty and squalor. They have children, but neither sufficient food nor clean water to give to them. Christian Aid has a strategy of funding projects that not only help these people in the short term but also make their communities independent of aid. For example: projects in Africa have helped people raise money to buy fertile land, thereby growing their communities out of poverty and projects in South America gave communities the tools and skills to harvest wild coconuts to generate a sustainable source of income. In every case the communities are given the facilities to fight their own way out of poverty and squalor. They are taken from hunger and squalor, by their own efforts, to a new life of dignity.



Mosheda is an example of the people Christian Aid helps. She lives, along with many others, on one of the low lying islands in the Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh and for her and her children, floods are part of everyday life. During the floods, the river, with its dangerous water-snakes, flows through the house, but Christian Aid has a programme of raising the houses on stable plinths, that give security against floods, and a raised space to grow crops. This gives Mosheda the basis for a better life.

It is important to note that Christian Aid bypasses governments and regional officials: it works with local partners it can trust, partners who have the experience to manage the projects effectively.

Every year Dalgety Parish Church works with members of other Churches to raise funds for Christian Aid and last year we raised over six thousand pound in our house-to-house street collection. We are playing our part in helping Christian Aid make a real difference in the lives of some of the poorest people in the world.



## THREE LITTLE ADVENTURERS

Three little Adventurers  
Full of smiles and fun.  
Working hard on pictures,  
And pleased with what they've done!

Singing, praying, giving  
To help lovely Wouddaline.  
She's in Haiti living,  
But her photo we have seen.

We're learning about Creation.  
All around God's hand we see.  
Although He's more powerful than  
any nation,  
He says He's interested in me!

The time is flying by.  
One more thing to do today.  
"IT'S SNACK TIME" is the cry.  
Then it's "Good-bye" till next  
Sunday!



# ADVENTURERS JUNIOR CHURCH

Take 5 Time (T.F.T) and check out what  
has, is and will be happening

The Lord's overflowing love, amazed faces,  
laughter and discussion.



Check out the noticeboard in the café (room 2)  
to see what is happening, you might want to  
get involved perhaps helping, leading and  
participating.



A favourite with adults and children is transforming scratch cards and creating  
pictures, messages and thank you cards.

Alison Hay

# **Men's Breakfast**

## **The Noise of Fellowship Continues**

Since the Men's Breakfast began nearly 4 years ago, we have been fortunate to have some excellent speakers who have shared their time with us to both entertain and inform us. The very first speaker was our then Interim Moderator, Robert Watt and since then we have welcomed a wide variety of speakers who have happily shared their thoughts and experiences with us.

Just prior to taking their leave of Fife, Susan Cord and her husband, James Bissett, entertained us with the story of their faith journeys. As you would expect with them, neither journey is either straightforward or conventional but they helped fill the room with laughter, something I'm sure will be continuing on the Black Isle!

Robin Arnott talked to us about how we can make a difference to farmers around the world by supporting Fairtrade, not just by buying Fairtrade products but also by asking retailers to use and offer more Fairtrade products.

Each year, the September breakfast is open to all as it is in support of our Harvest appeal. Speaking personally, I found last year's speaker John Helliwell who spoke of the work of Mary's Meals both moving and uplifting. Mary's Meals is such a simple concept and to hear how it changes lives was a wonderful example of practical Christianity. As a small plug, if you haven't read Mary's Meals founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's book 'The Shed that Fed a Million Children' I'd thoroughly recommend it. It is one of the most inspirational books you will ever read.

Closer to home we have also heard from Pauline Hoey who shared some of her experiences with people she has helped in the Glen in Dunfermline. Pauline is a great example of practical Christianity and provided a reminder, if we needed it, that in a supposedly civilised society many people can slip through the net.

Norman Smith, Minister at Granton Parish Church in Edinburgh who is on the Ministry and Discipleship Council, challenged us to think outside the walls of the Church. His message was essentially quite simple, to truly be a church of Christ we need to step outside the buildings and engage with the communities in which we are based: a simple idea but perhaps more difficult to put into practice. A practical application of this was when our friends from the Street Pastors in Dunfermline came and spoke about the work that they do in the town, principally on weekend nights. Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who care about their local community. They usually patrol from 10 p.m. to 3.30 a.m. on Saturday nights to care for, listen to and offer practical help and assistance to people who are out on the streets. Their success has led to other Street Pastors groups being set up in other towns in Fife.

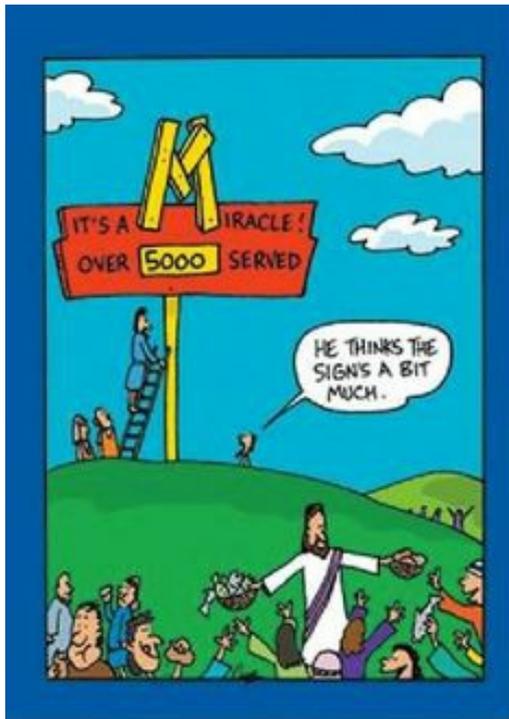
We don't charge for the breakfast however we are always glad to accept donations and any surplus is donated to the speaker's choice of charity. Occasionally, the surplus is donated back and we have purchased some small items for the kitchen, such as the cafetieres.

By the time you read this, Robin Hill will have shared his thoughts on a 'History of rock music, the unlikely journey of the Psalms.' After then, who knows? If you have any suggestions for suitable future topics or perhaps you would like to share your experiences with us, please let one of the team know, we are always keen to have suggestions for future breakfasts.

So, good food, great company and interesting speakers, what's not to like. Come along and join the noise of fellowship!

Iain Welsh

p.s. if you are a football fan, look out for a special Men's Breakfast event planned for the European Football Championships this June/July – watch this space!



# Stamp Appeal 2016

Once again, the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland is asking people to save stamps. Last year, nearly £3,500 was raised through the sale of stamps and thanks are expressed to everybody who sent in their contributions.

The campaign this year is for the Church of South India's Eco-spirituality centre, Othara, which is located near Kerala. The Centre is a unique place where people can learn about the causes and impact of climate change and the importance of being good stewards; conserving the earth God has given us. The Stamp Project will support some of their ecological innovations, including the harvesting and re-use of rainwater, the establishment of a biogas plant to power kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds.

Stamps of all values, denominations and countries are accepted. When you cut the stamp off the letter or postcard, please leave a 1cm border around it, trying not to damage the stamp.



Stamp albums and collections are also acceptable.

Savings stamps helps our ECO-congregation programme as it means we are re-cycling rather than discarding. Start doing it today! Stamps can be handed in to the Church office or placed in Robin Arnott's pigeon hole in the office.

# Girls Aloud @ DPC

Following the success of the Men's Breakfast, a suitable alternative for the "ladies" was sought. There was also an appetite for a regular social event for the ladies at a time when working women could attend.

The Ladies' Afternoon Tea (aka Girls Aloud @ DPC) is now held on four Saturday afternoons per year, with a speaker, usually on behalf of a charitable organisation, for whom we raise money by donation at the event.

Our speakers, from our own congregation and out with, have enlightened us with insights into topics such as homelessness in Dunfermline, to attendance at the Church of Scotland Youth Assembly. We have also heard about areas where the tea-goers can volunteer their time, such as the Real Living Café and their befriending scheme.

Our speaker on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June will be Pauline Gourlay who will tell us about her recent visit to Uganda with four other members of SI Dunfermline: the local club of Soroptimist International, which is an international volunteer organisation working to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

If you enjoy a cup of tea (we do also serve coffee!) with a wondrous choice of savouries and cakes, in fun company, then join with Girls Aloud @ DPC.



# STEWARDSHIP

## - IT'S "TIME" TO GIVE AN UPDATE!



This years theme is well underway and the Team has been working hard for us all to be involved in activities to spend more "Time" with Jesus, Others, You.

We hope that you found the daily e-mail from "40acts- Do Lent Generously" both thought provoking and challenging. I know from the feedback received and from folks who were part of the small groups that it gave them new perspectives on the season. Don't worry if you missed out, 40acts is an annual event so you can sign up next time!

Our other recent event was "Café Church", where we spent the evening with readings, prayers, poems, discussions, worship and of course, lots of cake. There was great buzz about the Church as we discussed how we could make "Time" for Jesus, Others, You.

Folks have asked when the next "Café Church" is and I am pleased to announce that Congregational Development Group are picking up the banner and are in the throes of organising this for the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.



It would be wrong not to mention that some of our Stewardship team have become film stars. As part of a promotional film for Stewardship, "121" asked us how we make stewardship relevant, enjoyable and engaging to our Church. The DVD will be available soon to find out the answers! (I also understand there is a separate DVD full of a certain session clerks "out takes"!)

**So what's next....**

Well on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June we have our "mini retreat/walk". The plan is to meet at 11am at St Bridget's Kirk for some worship and then for a "Time" of discussion as we walk to Black Sands, Aberdour. Once we arrive we will have a further short time of worship, which will end the formal part of the day. We hope that you will stay and enjoy a picnic together, so please put the date in your diary, pray for a nice sunny day and start preparing your picnic! (We have booked the Aberdour Church hall in case the weather lets us down)

We are also busy collating folks "My Favourite/Special Verse" to put together in book form. "The book", is an idea we are all very keen on and we hope you will like it too. We are asking that you write down your favourite bible verse and tell us why that verse is special or speaks to you. A template for your use is available on the Church's website or from the Church and a post box for completed contributions is in the Hall of Fellowship. So if you have not done yours yet please get busy as our closing date for these is Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June!

Finally "Cheese & Wine" evening on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November is the finale of the Stewardship programme for 2016. More details will be given nearer the date. As usual any questions about any of the events or if you would like to get involved with Stewardship, please speak to a member of the Team.

## *Financial Report*

Our Financial Report for the first four months of 2016 shows that congregational offerings were £2,900 below budget, and over £2,300 less than in the same period in 2015. Should this pattern continue for the rest of 2016, it is probable that the General Fund will be in deficit (costs exceed income) before the end of the year. The last Stewardship programme which focussed on giving encouraged us to 'Bridge the Gap'. Let's see if we can continue to do so.

# Path of Renewal

I've been asked to be part of a filming project for Heart and Soul, 'People of the Way', focusing on the Path of Renewal.

These are the questions I have been asked to reflect on:

1. How does the Path of Renewal allow you to explore your calling as 'People of the Way'?
2. What excites you about the path of renewal?
3. What challenges is the path of renewal helping you overcome?

I am a paid consultant to the Path of Renewal and have the privilege of being facilitator, coach and mentor to 6 Ministers who are all in the North of the country: two up by Aberdeen and one each in Culloden, in Melness, in Tongue, in the Orkney island of Shapinsay and Burra Isle in Shetland. Most of our meetings are 'virtual', using Skype audio calls as a means of getting together and sharing and it works surprisingly well. I visit them all 3 times a year and this is without doubt, the most fulfilling work I have ever done, in any context, anywhere. It is also very challenging.

1. In coaching and mentoring 6 very different Ministers, I have learned a great deal: certainly I've got back as much or more as I have given. Of course, there's the surface stuff about helping with day to day or administrative processes, but the really good thing for me has been the chance to grow in my own faith because of my exposure to these wonderful people, and in seeing just how well they understand and implement the loose framework that the concept of the Path of Renewal is. I have come to understand that Path of Renewal at a local level is all about context set within a shared desire to share our faith and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. There is no 'one size fits all' in a Parish context, just as there is none for us as individuals who follow Christ.
2. Everything about this project is exciting, and has been from the selection process last Autumn, to our first conference in January and now again, as we move forward into the formation of small groups and the beginning of ventures and experiments by participating churches. It's exciting too, to be part of a 'delivery' team whose faith and messages

are rooted in Biblical truth and at the same time is creative, caring and dare I say it, fun. Sometimes it feels we are just one page ahead in a book, maybe even that we are actually writing the book as we go along. Dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty is exciting in itself and keeps us on our toes. Communication within the team is good, and there is a diversity of background and roles, which brings an amazing richness. A continuing challenge is allowing/guiding people in a particular topic without being over-prescriptive. Currently that topic is Discipleship.

3. I thought my biggest challenge was going to be 'these are all Ministers, and I am but an Elder and I shall feel like an inferior being'. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have felt respected for my professional viewpoint and even my incomplete understanding of some theological aspects has been always met with kindness and consideration. My library of Christian books has grown at a scary rate. The biggest challenge is undoubtedly conveying the idea of Path of Renewal to Ministers, Kirk Sessions and anyone who will listen. For the more literal-minded, the idea of a project or process, without predetermined outcomes, with freedom to experiment and to make decisions locally to meet local context, and have all this funded by the Church of Scotland seems truly terrifying, if not irresponsible! There are day to day challenges which I have to meet and it is far from being plain sailing. I may have to make difficult decisions or convey difficult messages, but I am upheld by the people with whom I work and ultimately by my faith in a loving saviour God.

Richard Lloyd



The Discoverers are continuing to meet every Sunday morning during the service and depending on the activities planned can use either the Quiet Room or Room 4 (the echoey one)! The leaders are extremely grateful to the young people for their input in discussions and their insight into passages from the Bible. Recently the material used is from Spill the Beans, which gives a reading that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Hopefully this allows a bit of common discussion amongst families after the service.

This week we looked at the passage about Paul and Silas being imprisoned for telling people about Jesus and his teachings. When an earthquake happened and the prisoners did not try to escape through the open doors, the prison guard fell to his knees and asked how he, too, could be saved. It was very simple .... the answer was "Believe", that's all! A very simple instruction but to really know in your heart is a different question. The guard definitely knew he loved God and believed in him and so immediately his outlook on life changed; he began caring for his prisoners rather than treating them cruelly. He even invited Paul and Silas to his home and fed them dinner! Was it the guard's influence which enabled Paul and Silas to be released? We were pretty sure he had something to do with this decision, another example of his new Christian outlook on life. How does all this relate to life today we asked ourselves? As Sunday was Christian Aid envelope delivery day we related it to helping and caring for other people across the world by contributing to the appeal and enabling Christian Aid to give support in so many situations worldwide. We donate money because we believe people should have better lives than they currently do and because we believe, as Christians, that God has a plan for these people just as he had plans for Paul, Silas and the prison guard. Once our discussion was over we had fun blowing ping pong balls across the table and trying not to land in "prison" (tape lines on the table with the sticky side up) and wrapping one of the girls in toilet roll! Great fun to break free from the "chains" just as the prison guard had done!

# Wordsearch

E S T H E R J J V T H G F V T H H J G S  
P Y C J E O R W U R B F W Q M Z L Q T A  
D Y M T N I O V A D X V P C S I I J O B  
I B R A R O M U K X G U P U H A Y Z Q R  
C F H C C U A Q I C X E D S I E N B G U  
T I U N V S N C N M B L S J J K T D O R  
T Y Z Z A P S P U A P E P B G A S D H L  
F N J Q P S W E E W A K P Y G M B R X I  
S T C A M K X P L D U P C F U G E L O Z  
N P P L N B H O S G H U R F V F C P I B  
Y H A O T E S N A I T A L A G X C E J U  
T S C N S S H V F G S C M I A A L K V K  
P O P I H R O K N H B E G J R V E U D G  
F B A I E O Z I X P V U N Z S S S L S V  
T N E P T L J W I D Y Z E E S U I K I J  
S Z O H L Z V R A O T M H W G D A I B M  
O T R H N Y A V M R H U K V K O S V I Z  
J F Q Y B R D C B P T J B J K X T X D A  
Y X O E R I P D T O Y H B Q Z E E S J C  
O E P B A B J K E C X J B P A D S K S P

ACTS  
ESTHER  
GALATIANS  
JOHN  
LUKE

ECCLESIASTES  
EXODUS  
GENESIS  
JONAH  
PSALMS

EPHESIANS  
EZRA  
JOB  
JUDGES  
ROMANS

# *Prayer for Peace*

Lord, everyone is searching for peace

Yet no one seems to find it.

There is trouble in the world

Trouble at work

and trouble in our families.

Lord, we find it hard to live in harmony

We struggle to love each other

And we find it well-nigh impossible to trust each other

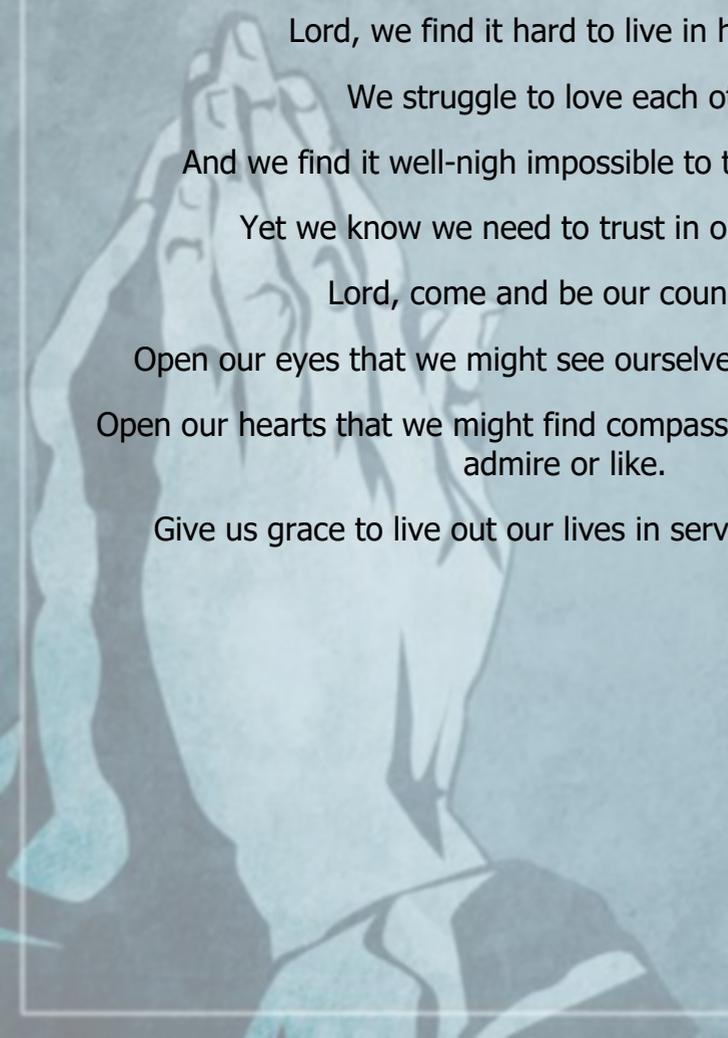
Yet we know we need to trust in order to live.

Lord, come and be our counsellor

Open our eyes that we might see ourselves as others see us.

Open our hearts that we might find compassion for those we least  
admire or like.

Give us grace to live out our lives in service to each other.



# Who to Contact

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You are invited to join with us to celebrate the  
Sacrament of  
Holy Communion

Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2016  
10.30 am

All are welcome at the Lord's Table