

W O W

Words of Wisdom

Minister's Musings

Life in the world at the moment is so difficult. Difficult to understand where we are going and how we got to this position in the first place. No matter your political persuasion, your view on Brexit, your theological stance; there is little clarity, little sense of direction and much fear. Even our weather can't make up its mind: hot, clammy, torrential rain – all at the same time, then clear skies and burning hot sun. However, by the time we have removed our raincoats and got the deck chairs back outside, the clouds have gathered again and we head for shelter.

How on earth can we plan for next week, or even tomorrow, or even this afternoon, when there is so little constancy?

'How on earth?' of course is only part of the picture! We can add in to the mix, 'how in heaven?'

Heaven is not simply to be thought of as the next world we will inhabit, but as part of this one. The part that gets squeezed out, sidelined. The part that for too long has been put on the back burner, when it should be at the centre of our response to 'how on earth?'

Faith is no magic bullet, however, Jesus did bring to us teachings and examples of how we can let heaven be seen and experienced, in the chaos and pain of our world. Jesus brought the gospel to us, not simply as God's messenger, but as God incarnate. The message was delivered in person, by a messenger who did not shove it through the letter box and shoot off back down the driveway: it was delivered by the Saviour, who remains with us, so we can work out with him a way forward for ALL.

How on earth do we face each day, each problem? It will help if we deliberately make a little time and space - no matter how busy our day and life – to pray, to listen, to give God the chance to catch us in when he delivers the day's message; to put down the pots and pans (a la Martha) and wait on the Lord in a different way. Listen, spend time, let silence be heard! Let God be part of your day, your decisions, part of you in every sphere and word and moment.

And no – I don't think it is easy to do. I know it isn't. I struggle with it too. However I know when I manage it, and manage my time so God does get a look in, the day feels better – rain or shine.

Christine



Church Family

Deceased:-

Mrs Jenny Roberts
Mrs Fiona McWilliam

New Member:

Sylvia Fradley

Upcoming Services

September 8th – 10.30 am Communion and Guild Service
7.00 pm - Evening service

September 15th - 10.30 am is our Harvest Sunday Service. After the service we will have the opportunity to hear from Crispin Longdon from CrossReach, who will speak about and answer questions on, our Harvest Appeal: Sunflower Garden (working with children and young people aged 5 - 16 who are affected by drug and/or alcohol use in their family)

September 22nd - 10.30 am Service with Baptism
7.00 pm - Café Church with our Mission Partner from Tiberias: Rev Kate McDonald.

October 1st – 2.30 pm Service at Henderson House

Who To Contact

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Dalgety Parish Church,
Regents Way, Dalgety Bay, KY11 9UY



Dalgety Parish Church of Scotland

Changes!

The General Assembly in its last two gatherings has been very strong on the need for reform – radical reform. Changes at every level of our church: National through Councils and Committees, Regional through Presbyteries and local through Kirk Sessions and Congregations. The Church of Scotland has been in decline (as measured by membership numbers) for over 60 years. This is not a new problem, but it is one that has not been addressed properly. Over the years changes have been suggested with a few even put into practice, but most have been resisted by Presbyters, by Congregations and by Ministers. So we arrive at a watershed, with the opportunity to grasp the nettle (or indeed nettles) and put into practice the Church of Scotland's motto which says we are to be reformed and are always reforming according to the Word of God. Some churches in some places would survive and thrive without change: others/most would not. But we are a national church, we are to move forward together as one.

General Assembly 2019 made some huge changes that are already happening and for other changes there are 'deadlines' which are imminent. Changes such as a reduction in the number of Councils, staff, money spent and indeed a review is underway to reform General Assembly itself.

There are instructions to Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions, with National Councils reviewing along with us how local church can be the best we can offer. You have heard about the Presbytery Review which is working with congregations, all of whom want to remain just as they are. They want more people, more children, more mission – but most would rather that happened without any changes in their church.

A local review? Yes, that too is required with General Assembly saying Kirk Sessions should be smaller and, with a consideration of ordination of Elders for fixed term appointments, we here at Dalgety parish Church are looking to see how we can change our structure to make us more missional and more efficient in being church.

Individually, the change – for each of us - is to realise that God needs all of us to be involved in his local team.

The chances are that nothing will work perfectly at first shot. In fact, I promise you that nothing we do will work perfectly – full stop. However what we cannot do is not try. And so – we are trying!! Some of the major changes at all levels are highlighted/outlined in this magazine.

Please pray for wisdom and courage and please may we all be patient with one another and put all our energies into making God's Kingdom here all God wants it to be, realising he knows what we can do and also, what we can't do.

The Guild

Our last Guild meeting was in May but we have had a number of outings over the summer. In early July we went to Burntisland for afternoon tea and, later in the month, we had a trip to Kellie Castle followed by High Tea in Anstruther. Due to unforeseen circumstances we were short of a driver that day, but one of our member's husband kindly stepped



in as a chauffeur, for which we were very grateful. In August, a number of us went up river on an evening musical trip on the Maid of the Forth. We thoroughly enjoyed the singing, the food, the dancing and would thoroughly recommend this if you are looking for something different to do with friends. I am writing this before our last outing, which is to Lochore Meadows, where we will have a walk and, of course, the obligatory coffee and cake. Cause we are The Guild!!!!



Our Guild supports two of The Guild projects each year and this year we will be raising money

for **Join up the Dots**, which is a partnership between The Guild and Crossreach and aims to combat loneliness and isolation wherever it exists throughout Scotland: also **Seema's** project which aims to build a home for abandoned street children from the red light district of the city of Pune, India and to build a rehabilitation centre for rescued victims of the sex industry. Two very different, but equally worthwhile projects and we hope you will support our fundraising events throughout the year.

On 4th September our meetings will commence with Communion and then we will talk through our syllabus for the year. If you are interested in what our committee have put together for our Guild meetings this year, please come along for 7.30 pm: you will be very welcome. You will also find our syllabus in a plastic pocket on our Guild board, beside the kitchen door, so do help yourself to one.

Sunshine Group

The Sunshine Group, which meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, has continued to meet throughout the summer and the effort made the volunteers is much appreciated by those who regularly attend. The Sunshine Group is free to all who come along, so it was great news to hear that ASDA wanted to donate some funds towards the running of the club.



Alana Brown, from Asda "Dalgety Bay" presenting a cheque of £780 on behalf of "Transforming Communities, improving Lives" to The Sunshine Group "Singing for the Brain" on Thursday 1st August.

Christian Aid/Macmillan Sponsored Golf Competition

After one of the wettest weeks for the sponsored golf for several years, the competition reached its conclusion on 31st May. Congratulations to St Fillans Aberdour on retaining the David Rutherford Cup by a clear margin of 238 points to Dalgety team's 229 points. Despite the weather some great scores were returned with Pat McMahon leading the way with an impressive 40 points to win the Hugh Martin Cup with Hamish Gorn one point behind on 39 points. The Jessie Pearston trophy for best Dalgety Lady's score was won by Sheila Page with 34 points. Many thanks to all players who participated especially those who braved the "soft refreshing rain" on Wednesday and Thursday. A fantastic £1,287.24 was raised by Dalgety players which will be divided between Christian Aid and MacMillan Cancer Support.

Dalgety Team (Six best scores from Dalgety Players)

Pat McMahon	40
Hamish Gorn	39
Calum Ritchie	38
Robert Leishman	38
Reg Davies	37
Gordon Ritchie	37

Dalgety players also won best on the day:

Monday; Hamish Gorn (39 points),
Thursday; Steve David (36 points)
Friday; Brian Lord (36 points).

Many thanks to all the players and their sponsors.



Organisers Pat Ritchie Dalgety Parish and Walter Heggie of St Fillans
with some of the Sponsor Golf competitors at the 2019 Presentation of Awards

Outdoor Messy Church

At the end of July, Messy Church took to the woods behind St. Colme Drive, as well as the beach in front of St. Bridget's Kirk. This was a great opportunity to do something a little bit different but still learning about how God provides for us and that he created us to live in relationship with him. We don't usually meet over the summer so numbers were perhaps not as high as usual, however, it was great to welcome new families along to be part of our Messy Family and as we always say, "it's not about the numbers"!



We had a fantastic team of helpers who led various activities and crafts including den building, weaving, leaf rubbing, transient art, creating insects and making clay decorations. Everyone seemed to have a great time: my suspicions are that the adults possibly enjoyed it even more than the children! Down at the beach we had a short service followed by hot dogs, lovingly cooked by our dedicated cooks. We even got to cook s'mores on the bonfire to finish off with.



The logistics of organising an Outdoor Messy Church was interesting although the only real issue we had was wondering what the weather would do! The previous day had been torrential rain but as we had advertised that it would take place whatever the weather (well it is Scotland after all!) we just planned activities that could be done even in the rain. Thankfully it stayed dry the whole time and we even had glorious sunshine on the beach!

For me, Messy Church has many highlights. One of them is the mixture of people involved in helping and especially that it is intergenerational, each bringing a different dimension to Messy. We regularly have 3 generations of one family involved in various ways which is wonderful. Another really important part of Messy is the relationships that are being formed. The vast majority of our families come from outwith our church and I see it as a great privilege to be able to support families who are perhaps struggling with different situations and to be able to get along side them and to offer practical and prayer support.



Please remember the people that Messy Church reaches and pray that the seeds we are sowing now will be fed and watered, and in time they will grow in their personal relationship with Jesus.

Pray too for opportunities to connect further with our Messy families in a meaningful way.



Thanks to the generous donations from our members, two very full carloads of clothing etc. were taken to the sorting station in Edinburgh on 20th July. Thanks are also due to our volunteers who provide storage for the bags when our church cupboards are full and who help with transporting the bags to Edinburgh. The sorted bags are transported from Edinburgh to refugee camps in Europe and a big shipment to Erbil in Iraq will be made soon.

Donations welcomed at the church include:

- clothing for adults and children – small and medium sizes only for adults,
- coats, jackets, waterproofs, trainers, sturdy boots, football boots, **Please note – sizes XS-M preferred for men and women**
- new underwear & socks
- blankets and sleeping bags, thermal underlayers,
- practical toiletries, baby wipes & nappies
- kitchenware, first aid supplies,
- school supplies and stationery
- tents, bikes

Families arriving locally are also looked after with help in setting up home (furniture, etc) and more families will be arriving in the coming months.

Find details of Re-Act, Refugee Action Scotland online on Facebook

Anne Yarney is stepping back from Messy so a huge thank you, Anne, for everything you have done to make Messy such a success. Lots of planning, preparing, crafting and imagination.



Discoverers (from p6)

A huge thank you to those who help with this group. Numbers in our church who are in this age group are small, however having any discussion about faith takes all generations along the learning curve!

'Discoverers' use materials called Spill the Beans and/or take themes from books available so offering variety and often the plan is simply the starting point for chats that will go off point but give our young folk the chance to ask their questions, voice their opinions.

If you would like to come along, or know someone who might you/they will be made very welcome.

If you think you could help with this group then we would love to hear from you.

Café Church

Café Church was last held in May when, along with modern worship songs and other hymns, we heard from two members of our own congregation about their faith.

The next Café Church will be held on the evening of 22nd September when we will have our Mission Partner from Tiberius, Kate McDonald, with us. Planning is underway for this now and if you would like to be a part of this or would just like to come along to join us that evening you will be made most welcome either way.



You are invited to join with us to celebrate the
Sacrament of
Holy Communion
Sunday 8th September
10.30 am
All are welcome at the Lord's Table

Old Friends Catching Up

Many in our congregation know Judy, Norman and Ben Kurzman well and are aware they are now settled in the outskirts of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Norman is working in IT with the Queensland government and Judy is a supply Primary teacher in the local schools in the area. Both attend The Gateway Baptist Church, an enormous building which has a very different style of worship than DPC but still with a very sound Christian message. Their son Ben has now graduated from University of Queensland and is continuing his education by doing a course in Social Work with a view to working with the homeless, amongst other things.

All three love living in Australia and especially like the climate and exploring their surroundings. Sometimes this might be as a family and on other occasions a church bike ride or with their Hash Running Club.

Mike, Pauline, Matthew and Veronica recently spent two fabulous weeks with them touring around the Sunshine Coast and hinterland on an itinerary devised superbly by Norman. He loved arranging this so much he is considering setting himself up as a tour guide with Airbnb on an ad hoc basis! We had a fantastic day at Lady Musgrave Island, at the southern tip of the Great Barrier reef, where we snorkelled seeing hundreds and hundreds of beautiful fish, turtles and of course the reef itself. We also visited the Queensland Garden Show, which was the equivalent of Gardening Scotland and were wowed by the amazing plants available (most of which we would regard as house plants!) One of our stops was in Bundaberg where we visited the Ginger Beer factory and had a tasting of all their products, however, the Ginger Beer is still definitely the best there is! In addition to all the places we were taken to there was amazing wildlife to see too; the kangaroos and koalas, the wonderful array of birds and on several occasions we were lucky enough to see the migration of hump-backed whales close to our boat and along the coastline too.

Australia is a fantastic country with so much to see and do; if you can possibly manage a trip there grab the chance you will definitely not regret it. Judy and Norman might even show you around too!



General Assembly 2019 - Richard Lloyd

The Mission & Discipleship (M&D) Council kindly granted my request to attend this year's General Assembly. As I went as a Corresponding Member, I had no vote and could only speak on matters relating to M&D, but, as it transpired, this was not an issue! I attended every session during the week and count myself as very blessed that this was an exceptional Assembly in many respects.

Amongst the very many 'best things' about the Assembly, was the chance to meet old friends, make new friends, catch up with the news and to hear opinions on the Assembly proceedings.

I arrived early enough each day to be able to choose my seat and on the day that Rev Professor David Fergusson, Convener of the Special Commission spoke, I was right in front of him. He was very impressive, and the reforms in his report have set the Church on a new course for the future. Implementation is now everything.

I will take one example, affecting me personally, to demonstrate the impact these reforms may have. Among many changes, Ministries Council and M&D Council will merge and the implications of this are wide-ranging. Each has a Secretary and staff (Permanent Employees - think of them as the civil service of the church) and a Convener and Vice-Conveners in a variety of roles. Each Council also has a large number of Ministers and lay people as members, most of whom are part of the many sub-groupings (for example I am on the Executive of the M&D Council itself, and a member of the Church Without Walls Group, and the Future Focus Group).

The cultures of these 2 Councils are very different. Have you ever been involved in culture change where you have worked? Then you'll know it's a major exercise. Not for nothing do change agents say that 'Culture eats strategy for breakfast!' The implications of this being that whatever you plan can be subverted by the existing culture of the organisation, unless it recognises the need for change and then willingly undertakes change.

Currently the Ministries Council has around 33 staff and 47 Council Members. M&D has around 25 staff and 28 Council Members. The breadth and scope of work of the 2 Councils is amazing as is the talent of the staff. Have a look at the Church of Scotland website for an idea of what each Council does and for what it is responsible. Did you know M&D Council currently 'owns' Life and Work, the St Andrews Press, and CARTA?

So what does the future hold? Immediately, on 6th September, M&D Council will meet to agree our approach to the merger for later presentation by the Ministries Council Convener, Rosemary Frew, together with M&D Convener Norman Smith, to the new Trustees.

In a world of uncertainty, it is however certain that the Trustees will be looking for reductions in the numbers of Council Members, hearing about what work can be devolved to the new Presbytery structure, face hard decisions about ways we are going to have to change and decide on things we may have to give up. Certainly, downsizing (right-sizing?) is likely to be high on our agenda.

This is no different from what Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions are going to have to do too. What is certain, though, is that your prayers for God's hand on all the changes is vital. Without prayer, we might as well toss a coin when we're making decisions. Please pray as hard for decisions at the centre and at Presbytery as you do for DPC!

General Assembly 2019 - Tara Shannon

For me, the General Assembly this year was an emotional roller coaster. At the start it appeared the Assembly wanted some real change with new church formats being explored, 4 councils being reduced down to 2, 43 Scottish Presbyteries being reduced to about 12. A £25 million fund was identified for church growth, with a focus on 'well equipped places in the right places' and a focus on under 40's.

Further into the week one of the topics that I am most passionate about came up again, Divestment. The assembly declared that there was a climate emergency. The young attending proposed an amendment to a motion to try and get congregations to become eco-congregations and focus on transitioning to a low carbon economy and reducing the amount of single use plastics used. We then made two new motions, the first trying to promote the use of sustainable palm oil. The second motion I made, which was to get the church to work with the Scottish government to urge food producers and supermarkets to reduce their use of single use plastics. Then came the divestment debate. This was a very passionate debate, again with a lot of input from young people. When it was time for the vote it was tense, the vote was so close that an electronic vote had to be taken. The vote declared that we continue to invest in fossil fuel, however it was close with only 40 votes in it. This vote angered and dismayed a lot of people with about 78 people dissenting meaning that they did not stand with the decision of the Assembly. Unfortunately the young people were not allowed to dissent so the next day we held a silent protest during the circulation breaks.

On Friday there was even more disappointment to come during the Mission and Discipleship report. The children and young people working group came to the table with some ideas of what the future of NYA could be. There were some good ideas, creating a faith formation weekend for 11 to 18 year olds and having faith formation weekends for 18 - 30 year olds. They also proposed some other options e.g. exploring lowering the age of eldership to 16; the possibility of an app; the possibility of a co-mentoring scheme; the feasibility of a Children's and Youth Committee and the feasibility of a Children's and Youth Committee. Most of these things are not set in stone and the young people that were at GA felt that by taking away NYA and not setting in stone anything like the youth council, our voice and decision making abilities were being taken away. A motion was brought to continue NYA until another venture that gave us a voice was implemented, however the Principle Clerk stood up to say that because a budget had already been agreed the motion could not go ahead, however someone put forward a motion to suspend the standing order that dealt with the budget. This motion failed meaning that after this year there will be no more NYA. This decision upset most of the young people at GA who have gained so much from NYA. It also placed a damper on the last day of the General Assembly.

General Assembly 2019 - Hannah Dunlop

This year's General Assembly set out to bring about huge change in the Church of Scotland. The first few days started out with the report of the Council of Assembly who brought a Radical Action Plan which aimed to bring about change that could make our Church more fit for purpose, this was followed by the report of the Special Commission which set to make huge structural changes to the National Church. There was a buzz around the assembly and it felt like there was hope. For me, there was a turning point during the Church and Society report and from this point I found a number of the decisions being made frustrating and testing. These decisions didn't cry of a church that was changing with the times and that was ready for new challenges. I found myself at various points during the week looking at what people were saying on twitter – below are some that I favoured throughout the week that expressed better than I could, how many of us were feeling.

Duncan Logie
@duncanlogie

Following

Youth reps who have no ability to vote or dissent and supporters protesting tragic vote against divesting from fossil fuel companies during yesterday's Church and Society report at circulation break #divestnow #GA2019



Rev Kate McDonald
@revkatemcdonald

Following

All the restructuring in the world won't help a church that isn't willing to change its investments in response to climate change, ensure gender equality at all levels, or listen to the prophetic voice of its young people. Some disappointing decisions from @churchscotland #GA2019

Darren Philip
@darphilip

Following

Last year, #GA2018 was assured that NYA would continue until there was a replacement decision making opportunity created for young people. There are no concrete proposals for this in the M&D report, so seems bizarre that they still propose stopping NYA. #GA2019

Lynne McNeil
@LynWorkEditor

Following

The Very Rev Dr David Lunan tells @churchscotland #GA2019 the Church 'is also an institution that is in danger of letting young people down'.

Sandy Sneddon
@sandy@mission

Following

Just before the Church of Scotland Investors Trust began their report to #GA2019 some commissioners stood and sang All Things Bright And Beautiful with words changed to protest the Trust's continued investment in fossil fuels.

Doug Gay
@DougGay

Follow

All things bright and beautiful...
Let's not destroy them all

The fossil fuel deposits
The Oil and Gas we've found
God says – You've done enough harm
Just leave it in the ground

All things ...
all creatures ...
all things wise and wonderful,
Let's not destroy them all! #GA2019

St Cuthbert's Church
@cuthbert_church

Replying to @churchscotland

Amongst the great things passed at this year's Assembly sadly 3 things now stand out and quite rightly have been picked up by the press. Failure to disinvest from fossil fuels. Failure to deliver gender parity on Board of Trustees. Failure to endorse continuation of Youth Assembly.

Clr Kim Long
@captainkim

Follow

Church of Scotland: BUT WHERE did young people go?

Young people in the Cofs:

- ✓ gay is okay
- ✓ stop decimating youthwork
- ✓ shame + sex isn't healthy
- ✓ spend \$ on poverty not roofs
- ✓ divest from fossil fuels right now

Cofs: ...

Cofs: BUT WHY are we a dying institution?

Follow

Follow

Follow

in Church of Scotland parishes across the land comes the plaintive cry: 'we need children & young people'. I wonder why the 'need', given some of the decisions coming from this #GA2019 demonstrate that we're not really listening, nor prepared to invest, in our young people

4:50 PM - 24 May 2019

General Assembly 2019 - Rachel Hunter

People who “talk a good game” are often those who can make £1 sound like £100 and make a sceptical plan sound innovative and realistic. Yet it also suggests that the great words never quite develop into the actions which were so highly promised. Disappointingly, this in some respects reminds me of General Assembly 2019 – an Assembly fuelled with the concept of change but one which sometimes acted in complete disregard of this.

The word “radical” was thrown liberally around the Assembly hall and by the end of the week the punch that the “radical action plan” had originally promised began to waver. A huge push at GA this year was that there should be more engagement with the youth and this idea was encouragingly supported by many. However, very little in the plan focussed on proper action which would be taken. Instead, it was vague sweeping statements which I personally don’t believe will lead to the much needed development in this area. The concept of investing in young people took a hypocritical turn when the Assembly voted to end the National Youth Assembly and replace it with “Faith Formation weekends”, which effectively remove the debate and ‘current issues’ aspects of the Youth Assembly which had made it a truly unique environment within the church. The first Faith Formation weekend is booked for January 2020 and although will be different to NYA, I think keeping an open mind and approaching it positively is essential. It is important that the church changes and evolves and therefore the youth must change too – so watch this space!

The vote against divestment was bewildering and disappointing in equal measures and I think forms the perfect example of the church’s use of “radical” words but lack of “radical” action.

Despite the negatives, there have been some really positive steps taken from the Assembly this year in the aim of changing and evolving the church. The issues of shrinking membership and declining finances have been openly accepted and are planned to be tackled head on. Local level church will change for the better and I think GA this year took the first step towards properly modernising the Church of Scotland.

My favourite council was the Ministries Council. I found their report fascinating and the debate which formed from it became one of the most memorable moments at the Assembly this year. The debate surrounding the monetary contributions caused a huge stir and I found it hugely fascinating as it was a topic I had never taken any time to consider before; but in reality is a huge part of how the church functions. This itself shows why I also love going to GA, it is such an educational platform and it really opens your eyes to see that church is more than just a Sunday morning. Therefore GA 2019 was quite the roller coaster, empowering decisions and strong steps for change were matched with disappointing votes and a lack of clarity on crucial areas. However, what definitely won’t be debated is that GA 2019 will certainly be one to be remembered.

Report of the Special Commission for the June meeting of Dunfermline Presbytery

The Special Commission was appointed by Presbytery in February 2019 *to review the missional needs of the Presbytery of Dunfermline and to undertake a review of all charges and buildings within the Presbytery.* We appreciate the support of Presbytery, members of Presbytery, congregations and members of congregations as we carry out our task. We are grateful that every congregation is obeying the terms of the February deliverance . *Presbytery instructs all congregations to engage constructively with the Special Commission in this process.* We are being very much helped by the contribution of Lorraine Fraser as our Clerk.

What we have done

- We have met, and will continue to meet, on the first Wednesday of each month.
- In March we promised the Presbytery that we would meet every congregation before the end of June. We have done that. We have followed the same agendas and the same timetable at every meeting.
- We have appointed a Consultant. We have already intimated that Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth, T F Torrance Lecturer in Theology and Mission at New College has joined our work. Already he has proved a considerable asset: not only for his learning and his wisdom, but also for his enthusiasm for and his commitment to our work.
- We have studied relevant material: for example Doug Gay *Reforming the Kirk*. Church of England Report *From Anecdote to Evidence*. Albert Bogle Re-imagining Conference video recordings. General Assembly Reports: Special Commission, Radical Action Plan, General Trustees. Sandy Forsyth *Pioneer Ministry; What is Mission?* Submissions from members of Presbytery.

What we have discovered

- Each congregation is different.
- Each building is different
- Almost all congregations have a strong family feeling and pride in their history
- Almost all agree that change is necessary, but few identify possible changes
- Dramatic absence of children and young people
- Very little appreciation of or affection for Presbytery
- Little ecumenical engagement

What we will do next

- Explore further what mission is, starting with the material we have been studying
- Examine the condition and usefulness of buildings, studying the reports already in the hands of Presbytery, meeting with local parties as necessary, consulting with the General Trustees.

What is uncertain

The implications for our Commission of the prospective creation of the Presbytery of Fife
The implications for our Commission of the determination of the General Assembly to increase the powers and the resources of Presbyteries.

What we would welcome

Indications from Presbytery and its members of the kind of final report of the Special Commission which is most needed.

- A new plan for uniting and closing churches?
- New things for the Presbytery to do to meet the needs of the whole community?
- Ways of encouraging congregations to engage more fully in mission?
- Emphasis on children and young people?
- Or?

It is unlikely that any proposals for renewal from the Special Commission will be successful if congregations do not value or respect the leadership of Presbytery.

A Radical Assembly

- Up to £25m to be spent on projects aimed at church growth, with particular emphasis on church planting
- 100 new worshipping communities to be established
- Focus on engaging with people under 40
- Cost of central administration to be cut by up to 30%: four councils to be merged into two
- Number of Scottish presbyteries to be reduced from 43 to about 12, focused on supporting local congregations in their ministry and mission
- Networks, hubs and other new local church structures to be developed
- Kirk Sessions to be reduced in size and focused on 'leadership and strategic decision-making'
- Decision-making and resources to be devolved from the central administration to regional and local levels
- No congregation to pay more to the centre after next year until new arrangements are agreed
- Land and buildings plan to focus on 'well equipped spaces in the right places'. Money from sale of redundant buildings to be shared between congregations
- Improved training and support for all ministry and leadership roles
- General Assembly to be made smaller
- Encouragement of a season of 'prayer and preparation' across the Church from September to December 2019

Thinking Aloud

Thinking Aloud is an opportunity to explore a range of topics affecting our everyday lives where the Bible is silent or ambiguous, or where its message is seen as irrelevant in modern times.

Thinking Aloud is aimed at all those whose faith journey includes doubts and unanswered questions and those who are willing to share the answers they have found.

It's okay to be dishonest sometimes, old age is what you make of it and there are no easy ways to address the changing balance of members and buildings in the Church. I'm sure we said more between 7.30 pm and 10.00 pm on the Thinking Aloud Tuesdays in May, June and July but no-one is taking minutes or following a fixed agenda. We're not trying to solve anything, we're allowing our thoughts and opinions to be altered or strengthened by listening to others and sharing what comes to mind. So it's really just a chance for a blether over a glass of something! Some of us have known one another for years, others are new to the area or just new to Thinking Aloud: some people have lots to say on a particular topic but may want to hear other's views on a different theme. I try to include everyone that wants to say something but no-one is ever under pressure to speak. We hope you would find it friendly and relaxed.

Details of the upcoming discussion topic are usually in the order of service on the two Sundays prior to each meeting. Do come and join us at 6 Forth Reach on the third Tuesday of the month.

Lesley Shaw - 01383 821628
curves@bruce-shaw.co.uk

Fairtrade recipe to try

Coconut Rice Pudding

300g Kilombero rice, cooked

1 tin Fair Trade Coconut Milk

¼ tsp salt

¼ tsp cinnamon

¼ tsp ginger

½ tsp vanilla extract

2 tbsp raisins or other dried fruit

1 tbsp butter

Put all ingredients in a pot and bring to boil stirring continuously.

Turn heat to low and simmer until most of the liquid has been absorbed.

Allow to cool before serving

(tsp=teaspoon tbsp=tablespoon)

Youth Zone

Youth Zone starts again on Friday August 30th.

Youth Zone is open to boys and girls who are in in class P4 to P7. We meet in the church on a Friday from 4pm until 5.30pm and I am pleased to say, we have both girls and boys attending from various schools in the area. Youth Zone is a time to wind down after a week at school, have fun, play games, to meet up with existing friends and to make new friends.

We try to vary our programme each week, however, some games or activities are so popular they are often repeated. Nancy and I have not yet managed to work out why one game or activity is enjoyed so much that it is requested every week. We take time to cool down with a story, which leads to discussions on our faith, what God and Jesus means to us as Christians and also what God, Jesus or faith means to today's youth. Questions are always encouraged and while we don't always have the answers there and then, we are more than happy to try and find an answer.

The summer break has allowed me to think back over the year: about our craft projects, the fun we had at charades and how Nancy and I were entertained by the plays put on. The team games showed how caring and encouraging the children were with each other, whilst still wishing to come first. It has been wonderful to share, even for a little while, the fun that comes with spending time with children. It has been a privilege to see how those that have attended since P4 and are now in P6 or P7, have grown in confidence, developed new skills and how they assisted, encouraged and showed patience to the younger ones.

At Easter our Minister (Christine) came and told the Easter story using different coloured eggs containing objects that represented each stage of Easter. The kids were captivated and we were impressed by the questions they asked.

Rosemary Freeman came to tell us the story of St Bridget and we each made a St Bridget's Cross from pipe cleaners, with a lot of help from Rosemary. It was interesting to see the mixture of different colours used on each cross. Once again, the children asked various questions, which is always a good sign.

Sue Strahan (Girls Brigade) came to show us how to make bird cake. Whilst this was a bit messy, everyone succeeded in completing the task, promising to hang their bird cake up. I do hope the birds appreciated all the hard work...I am sure they do!

Some of our youth will not be returning as they now move up to High school. They will be missed and I wish them all the best. Nancy and I now look forward to new youth attending our Friday Youth Zone.

Boy or Girl this club is for you. Come one week or even two: come to all, that's even better. Miss a week?? that's okay, the club will be on the next Friday. Look forward to seeing you at Youth Zone.

Natasha



Comfort International Rwanda

The 7th of April marked the 25th anniversary of the start of the genocide in Rwanda, which claimed the lives of nearly a million people in just 100 days. As the survivors go through this painful period of remembrance and mourning, we would ask you to continue to pray for them and all the agencies that seek to support them.



This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the foundation of Comfort International which was initially established in Rwanda to help meet the practical and spiritual needs of the survivors. To mark this occasion they have launched a special campaign to build a Transformation Centre in Kigali: this will be a purpose built centre to allow children and young mums to rebuild their lives for a better future. It will include accommodation for up to 80 ex-street children plus 'house mamas' and also a home for particularly vulnerable Comfort Babies mums and their babies. This fantastic space will facilitate living, learning, meeting and play and will help us continue to improve the quality of life of many children and young people in Rwanda.

To raise funds for the Transformation Centre and community projects in Karongi district, Anne and I have decided to enter the Edinburgh Kiltwalk (26 miles) on the 15th September. We appreciate that everyone has different charities they like to support, however if you would like to donate to this work, please contact us and we can provide you with details on how you can do this.

We are also very much looking forward to going back out to Rwanda in the summer of 2020, so hopefully work will have commenced on the Transformation Centre by then. Thank you for your support.
Michael & Anne Yarney

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse is held in rooms 1/2 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm. Although we have not quite so busy over the holiday period there have been interesting and purposeful conversations with those who came along.

Do you know someone who is new to the area and is looking for an opportunity to meet up with people? Do you know of someone who is already living in the area and is lacking company, but is unsure where to meet people? Why not tell them of The Lighthouse where we offer a chance to chat over tea, coffee and biscuits.

Better still, don't just tell people about The Lighthouse, come with them and make their first step into The Lighthouse an easier one to take. We look forward to your company.

Margaret Fraser



The Columba Experience

In June this year I went on a pilgrimage with the church of Scotland in Argyll where we followed in the steps of St Columba. We started off in Tarbert and walked up to Oban over 7 days, most of the route took us along the coast so there were plenty of beaches to stop off at for lunch and a quick swim.

One of the things that impressed me most from the whole experience was the incredible hospitality that we received.

On the trip we stayed in a huge range of different places, sometimes we were sleeping in church halls and other times people put us up for the evening in their houses. Wherever we went there were also always plenty of people willing to offer a cup of tea, some cakes or a meal. It was humbling to see how willing people were to go above and beyond and do so much for people that they had never met before.

Hannah Dunlop



Evening prayers at Achahoish Parish Church



The group before Communion in St Columba's Cave Achahoish



Dinner at the village hall in Achnamara



This is where we had evening prayers on Luing

Easy Bible Study is coming back!

New day, new time!

From Tuesday 27th August this group will meet at 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm on Tuesdays - every week. Come and join us in church for one, when you can, every time ... whatever you can manage, want to do.

Our first few weeks passages are:

17th August Mark 2: 13 – 17 and Mark 3: 13 – 19

3rd September Mark 4: 26 – 34

10th September Mark 5: 21 – 43

17th September Mark 8: 1 – 13

24th September Mark 10: 46 – 52

1st October Mark 11: 12 – 19

The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.

Remove
the have nots,
the can nots
and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase
the will nots,
may nots,
might nots
that may find
a home in my heart.

Release me from
the could nots,
would nots
and should nots
that obstruct my life.

And most of all,
dear, God,
I ask that you remove
from my mind, my heart and my life
all of the
'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am
not good enough.
Amen

