



## Minister's Musings

What headlines grab your attention? My thoughts are that for most of us it would be news of a disaster! Or maybe a scandal!

Yet the news that has made us in church sit up recently has been – 'singing by congregations allowed in church'. Even for those of us very aware of the challenges in our church at the moment this news lifted us.

As with all 'headlines' we need to read the article, the complete piece. Restrictions remain in place (face coverings, distancing) and of course it does not mean that those who don't like to sing will suddenly find they are thrilled and willing to sing out loud. The only thing it actually means is that if we want to, decide to, plan to, and then make it happen, we can sing praises to God in communal worship. It is a step closer to being able to return to worship that includes freedom in liturgy, and heralds in a return to greater involvement of congregation.

Other 'plans' are less certain as we wait for decisions from government about Covid restrictions and also as we await National Church, Presbytery

and local decisions about our structure.

Maybe you have heard me say this before – I hope so: 'we cannot return to normal'. We neither have the human resources, nor the finances, nor indeed, in those who remain involved, the energy to continue to do all we have done, in the way we have done it.

We need to re-organise and re-structure. And we will. We are.

Please pray that Presbytery and Local Congregations will work together to move the goalposts! They need moved. Pray that as a congregation and individuals within that congregation we will all realise the need alongside the possibilities and the opportunities to work differently; and get involved in making them happen and work. And pray that we will not drag our heels, not dig ourselves in to ways that no longer work; but that we will, no doubt with fear and trembling, step out in faith, learning to rely not on ourselves but on God' letting God have the church and parish back; letting Christ be the one who is the head of us all; letting the Spirit 'wheech' us up and along with joy in our hearts.

The future is unknown but  
Corrie ten Boom gave us wise advice:  
Never be afraid to entrust an unknown future to a known God.



Some of you may have been surprised recently to receive a cheery wave from someone wearing a yellow t-shirt whizzing round the Bay on the back of a tandem. Well it was me, and the person on the front (doing at least 70% of the work, he says) was my husband, Sandy.

Just why are we doing this? The answer is on these yellow t-shirts. It is for the Mamie Martin Fund, which exists solely to pay the school fees of girls in Northern Malawi. You may now remember that this is where the proceeds from the monthly Fair Trade stall went, but of course there hasn't been a stall since March 2020.



The Fund, like so many charities, is feeling the pinch so someone came up with the bright idea of completing a virtual cycle run of 10 670 miles, the distance from Edinburgh to the north of Malawi where Mamie Martin and her husband Jack were living one hundred years ago.

We will be pedaling along throughout June and July and adding our mileage to the total so if anyone would like to contribute to the fund, they could donate online at [www.mamiemartin.org](http://www.mamiemartin.org) or simply put some money in an envelope marked Mamie Martin Fund and hand it in to the church, the manse or 23 Doune Park. Any contribution will be gratefully received and will go to improving the life of a girl in one of the world's poorest countries. If you wonder what good educating a girl will do, Michelle Obama has had a lot to say on the matter, and basically it is that educating girls is the biggest step in improving the life of a developing country.

Winnie

## Eco Tip

In looking to be more Eco friendly why not consider trying laundry detergent sheets. This does away with unnecessary packaging. These can be purchased on-line either as a single purchase or you can sign-up for a regular delivery as per your requirements.

Laundry detergent sheets replace your standard detergent laundry products which tend to contain plastics, dangerous chemicals and toxins.

They are free from harsh chemicals and are made from only natural ingredients and come in fully recyclable cardboard packaging. In a nutshell, their impact on the environment is minimal!

As you can see from the picture below they are delivered in a very small box. The box shown contains 40 sheets. Generally 1 sheet per wash is enough or for a larger load you can use 2 sheets or even 1.5 as the sheets can be cut.



# Open Hearts

Seeing with the eyes of our heart allows for tender encounters in these most unexpected of times.

The three stories, share a few snapshots of what is happening in Dalgety Bay.

- Two women, strangers, with items to be recycled are the only ones at the recycling centre. One woman says "I watched my husband take his last breath" ... "he died of COVID-19; it was May last year" ... "I can no longer afford to live in Dalgety Bay" ... the exchange was gentle and caring ...
- Three women in their twenties walking on the coastal path share they are walking from Kirkcaldy to the bridges and asked which path do they take. As they were about to leave a question asked, "Are you doing a sponsored walk?" Their eyes lit up, their excitement as they shared what they were doing and why. The enquiry, donation, photo request and they left with renewed vigour, waving saying to one another 'a random act of kindness'.
- Leaving by car after a morning service in the church building, not out of the car park and two people ask, "What's on at the church?" An open-ended question with an open inviting answer within the conversation which followed and waves and smiles every time we see each other.

All the conversations, of which there have been many, appeared to be a word in the Lord's timing, being open, recognising the opening, the gentleness, the conversation that unfolds, allowing peace to the giver and receiver, in Christ's name.

May the Lord bless all your encounters, enabling you to say and do in His timing, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Alison Hay



Jesus said:  
Follow Me!  
and I will make you  
fish for people.

**AND IMMEDIATELY  
THEY LEFT THEIR NETS  
AND FOLLOWED HIM.**

General Assembly 2021

## Musings from The Mound

Just a talking shop: so say some folks referring to church organisation. The General Assembly may be one target for this barb. I have been fortunate to attend 5 of these and have to report that they usually inspire, always inform, and frequently entertain! The online 2021 Assembly was all of these. This is not a report from GA, just some of my recollections.

Firstly, I didn't have to contend with rushing commuters: Covid meant the meetings were online. And the technology staff were excellent - some glitches quickly fixed while the Moderator covered ably and with good humour. Lord 'Jim Wallace', formerly Lib Dem MSP, elder from Orkney was nominated as Moderator; and an excellent job he made of it. In his speech he welcomed Prince William (Earl of Strathearn in Scotland), who was representing the Queen as High Commissioner.

Memorable too was the Very Rev Martin Fair, retiring moderator, who gave a resounding and challenging address about 'work for the Church to do'; while poverty, sectarianism, mental health issues, refugees and war abound. I guess this speech must surely be on YouTube by this time so you might listen to it.

The main, foremost and recurring theme was CHANGE, necessary and urgent. I sometimes wonder if we are church In Action or Inaction! The challenge of how to reform the church to improve mission, relevance and remain viable has been talked about for years. Assembly agreed a Mission Plan to reduce the number of Churches to (possibly) fewer than 700 in 5 years! With the additional factor of 30% of ministers due to retire in that time. Any new church vacancy arising in the immediate future will not be granted permission to seek a minister.

Another report talked about the future of the church buildings and land. A quote to note - 'there can no longer be an assumption that any building can survive without a critical assessment of its contribution to the future mission of the Church'.

Dunfermline's own the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers admitted that the reforms would cause pain throughout the Church. He said: "...this is not an easy ask (which) will involve painful decisions, and every parish will be affected."

Comprehensive and sometimes contentious was the Faith Nurture Forum which stretched over 3 days. Convener Rev Rosie Frew, coped altogether with about 8 hours of quizzing from members at home and in the hall. She was impressive with her knowledge and understanding of the wide range of topics she was subjected to. She described the situation as "draining the resources of the Church - people, morale, finance - just to keep this broken system going. Without radical treatment the Church will not survive."

A great deal to ponder, and many of these issues will be sent as consultations to Kirk Sessions seeking discussion and opinion on the above.

Lots of other discussions, not always as contentious as these. GA welcomed the fact that the Church had dumped investments in fossil fuel, and paid tribute to the 'passion of young people' in the Church who had campaigned for this. It set up a special committee on Ethical Investment to report in two years. Do you remember that a group of teenagers in the Connexion were involved in petitioning the Kirk to act on this about 10 years ago. One of these was Hannah Dunlop, who has been appointed to serve on this committee.

- GA has also agreed to pursue the solemnisation of same-sex marriages by the Church. A decision for Presbyteries.
- Assembly agreed with the Scottish Episcopal Church that they would work together in faith respecting and accepting each other. Another step along the ecumenical path.

At the end of the Assembly, Moderator Jim Wallace noted that significant progress had been made. "The challenges are very real and five days of debate do not make them disappear. (but) as we emerge from this Assembly we are better equipped and better prepared to deal with them."

Final thoughts:

- Change your 'Sunday' clothes for 'Working' clothes; there's work to be done!
- Change your outlook; It's not what can we do for young folk - it's what can they do for us. The church belongs to them - if it is to survive.
- Change is everywhere, but NOT in the collection plate! Donations should be folded!

George Owenson

# Sponsored Golf Competition

After the 2020 sponsored golf competition had to be cancelled last year because of COVID 36 golfers took to the fairways this year from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May to raise money for Christian Aid and Macmillan Cancer Care. The week started with some pretty grim weather with golfers braving wind and rain on Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday however the weather took a turn for the better at the end of the week and some excellent scores were posted.

Jordan Ritchie returned a most impressive 46 points and won the Hugh Martin Cup by a margin of 4 points. The Jessie Pearston Trophy however was more closely contested with Jo Daley and Anne Farquharson both scoring 38 points and the recognised count back not managing to separate the two ladies. After consulting the rule books Jo Daley won the trophy when the scores on the three hardest holes on the course were taken into account.

The much-coveted David Rutherford Cup for the best team has been played for since 1980 and this year it was a pleasure to see it back in the hands of Dalgety Parish Church.

Many thanks to all the golfers who participated in the competition and to all the sponsors who so kindly and generously donated to these two charities. Golfers are reminded to return sponsor money /donations to Natasha Myas 9 Wayfarers Drive, Dalgety Bay.

Pat Ritchie



# Boys' Brigade

Dear friends of 1st Dalgety Bay Boys Brigade,

It is with deepest regret I have to inform you that due to staffing issues we are no longer able to run the company.

We are looking to find out if there is anyone with BB experience who would like to run the company. As you know its an inspiration watching wee 5 year old anchor boys join and turn into fine young men. One as such is Arran Sutherland who will be awarded his Queen's Badge in the next few weeks.

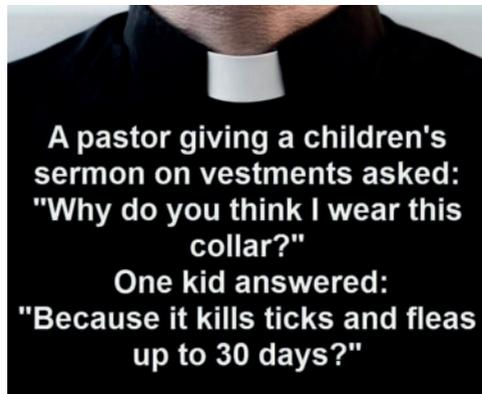
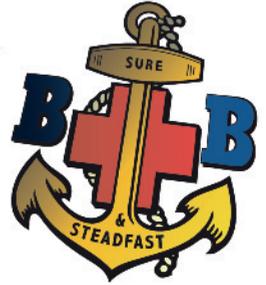
I have been at Dalgety BB's for 21 years and had the privilege of being Captain for 20 of those amazing years. I would like to thank every captain, officer, boy, helper and parent who has been part of our company and helped along the way.

It's been my honour to be part of The 1st Dalgety Bay Boys Brigade journey. Thank you.

Kind regards

Lorna Harley Retiring Captain

A huge 'thank you' and 'well done' to Lorna for not only leading the BBs for so long, but for the amazing difference she, with so many others, have made to so many lives. With busy lives of their own all the leaders have shown commitment which in itself is a superb quality for young boys to learn, for young men to emulate, and for all of us to offer. I know this has been such a hard decision for Lorna and Dan, I pray they can realise the joy and encouragement they have given to so many. Thank you, Lorna and Dan, and all leaders present and past of the 1st Dalgety Bay Boys' Brigade.





## A Letter from the Moderator of Fife Presbytery

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have recently celebrated Pentecost, the Day of Fire and tempestuous wind.

Our outgoing moderator, Very Rev Dr Martin Fair described his year in office as, *a year like no other*. His words are startling, because experiencing strange and disrupting times can be paralysing. In the teeth of such a violent gale, being cruelly tossed and turned is frightening, overwhelming. However, Martin's repeated mantra in his barnstorming General Assembly sermon offers a different way - less paralysis and a call to loving arms, *We have work to do!*

This year's General Assembly has taken decisions like no other. Assembly has agreed the numbers of ministries each presbytery can call. Fife Presbytery's callings have moved from our current status of 58.5FTE ministries to an allocated 44.5FTE which includes Mission Development Staff, Deacons and Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Of our current 65 churches we have 15 vacancies and 11 guardianships.

Presbytery Planning will be called Mission Planning and all presbyteries must agree and submit their new Mission Plan to the Presbytery Planning Task Group (PPTG) and have it accepted by 31st December 2022. Below is a link to Life & Work's summary of reports given and decisions made across the wider Church and I commend it to you. Two further critical changes agreed at Assembly are that by 2025 the Church can afford 600 ministers (Not the current 700) and 60 vacancies at one time (not the current 299). We have work to do, which I suggest is work to make us ship shape for Gospel mission. The convenor of the Faith Nurture Forum Rev Rosie Frew said, *We are draining the resources of the church - people, morale, finance - just to keep this broken system going. Our report offers us a chance to thrive, to lay down the burdens that are exhausting us.*

Far from being paralysed and fettered, however Assembly heard a defiant and determined response and call in our new moderator's sermon near the end of Assembly week. Lord Wallace's text was from the Book of Acts 11, which describes the twin horrors of persecution against the Church following Stephen's death, and a prediction of famine which went on to devastate the Empire during the reign of Claudius. Jim highlighted how Barnabas, Saul, Agabus and other disciples set to: energised and enabled by the Lord's hand upon them they thrived because they responded kindly and compassionately. They supplied food and help, sacrificially, *Each as they were able providing help for brothers and sisters living in Judea.*

We too have been assailed by twin horrors. The devastating decline in the numbers of people attending church, or seeing the Church as relevant. Is this not a modern day form of persecution, a form of passive attack? Then the pandemic ravaged the earth, which is not dissimilar to the C1st famine plague. The message from scripture, the message from our two moderators is to shun paralysis and dismay in their vicious wake, to get busy, to discern new and on-going needs, and with the Lord's hand upon us dream dreams and do greater things than we can imagine. Good news stories of fresh thinking and new practise are already growing locally. In the coming months it will be good to share these as living stones, living examples of what we may do. Building on the conversations and consultations which have taken place in past years, further opportunities to meet with congregations and work with you towards new goals are being planned: With the Lord's hand upon us we will surely thrive!

Dear Friends we are in the teeth of the gale, which is not a new thing for the Church of Jesus Christ! How we reform our mission and our love for God's world together, is an old care and now it's in our hands! Now, we are being trusted to harness the wind and feed the scorching fire already gifted for cleansing and refining. With such power, it is our calling to help re-new the earth and all God's people, in the guise of the new Fife Presbytery family.

Blessings and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Rev Jane Barron  
Moderstor, Fife Presbytery

<b>A Prayer for a Spiritual Harnessing</b>	Newly Born Christ, A storm whips up and disturbs the comfortable sea.	Risky Wild Spirit, Your energy fired a Genesis beam and lit the universe.
Creating God, You made everything, you are making everything. Every thing which breathes is a work in progress. We are a work in progress.	We are afraid. You are surprised.	You are miracle. Blaze the same in us, we pray. Amen.

Dear all,

As I enter my last few weeks as a student attached to Dalgety Parish Church, I thought it would be good to reflect on the last 6 months that I spent with you. It has certainly been a placement of two halves, the first three months having been entirely online and the second having the welcome sight of people in the church on a Sunday morning for our 11am service. Whether online or in person, it has been a joy and a privilege to have been able to, not just lead worship, but to have joined in worship with you. I have been able to meet many of you during my time at DPC, either in the virtual world or face-to-face, and I have had many interesting conversations on all sorts of topics about faith and life. Of course, the last year has been hard for everyone in different ways during the necessary restrictions of the pandemic and we have all sought to cope with these difficulties in the best ways we know how. However, it has given me real encouragement to see how the community of DPC has continued to be engaged with the life and worship of the church and the comfort that the church family can bring, both to those within its midst and those in the communities around it. I thank you all for allowing me to be part of that church family and welcoming me so fully into it.

As I look back on the year there are several things that I can highlight as real highs within a thoroughly enjoyable placement:

- I was invited to speak to the Guild back in March, something I haven't done in a long time, and was able to share some of my journey to faith and what it's been like to be training for ministry. It was an enjoyable evening and gave me the chance to meet many members of the Guild and to be able to spend time listening to them and answering their questions.
- Being part of the Tuesday morning Bible study group has been something I have found to be a very enriching experience. Getting to know those that have attended and spending time exploring in more depth what the Bible has to say to us today has been both stimulating and encouraging to me. Deepening our understanding of God's word helps us to deepen our understanding of God and it has been a real joy to explore this on a Tuesday morning.

- A personal highlight for me was Holy Week and the run up to Easter Sunday. It was a week of creativity and imaginative worship where many in the church were involved in all sorts of ways. I found it personally enriching to my own faith and learned much from what others had to say and contribute.
- Another highlight has been all the wee conversations that I have had with folks – whether online, or over the phone, in person after worship on Sunday, or randomly meeting people in the street when I’m chasing after my sons on their bikes. I have been made to feel so welcome and have been touched by the interest that you have all taken in me.
- Finally, I want to take the opportunity to thank Christine for all that she has done over the past six months. It has been such a pleasure to work with and learn from her. We have had a lot of fun and always seem to end up making each other laugh about something. She has been generous with her time and allowed me freedom to be creative and explore what ministry means. I’ll never look at the Easter donkey the same again!

As I move on from DPC, I will always look back with fondness and thanksgiving for the time that I have had with you. I am spending the summer with the chaplaincy team in the hospitals before going into my final dissertation year at university. I look forward to new challenges to come, but I will make sure that I am not a stranger within the walls of Dalgety Parish Church.

With thanksgiving and prayers,  
Ewan

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

Lamentations 3: 22-24

Ewan, it has been fun, and a learning time through this COVID restricted placement. You have stepped out your comfort zone more than once, and we have all enjoyed having you with us. We pray God’s blessing on you as you continue your training.

# Why don't I know this?

From a very early age I have always been a believer, communing with our Lord and Saviour in prayer. The relationship deepened and I matured in Christ when I asked this question. Why don't I know this?

A question or rather a thought which went through my head twenty-five years ago when I was reading the bible, the content was making such a lot of sense and essential for living but I had not absorbed it in this way before and there was a necessity, a desire in my heart to share the content with others.

I had been lying in bed with a dislocated leg and a pelvic diastasis. The pain was severe for years, but this desire to read, absorb, have the word open up in this way was new to me.

Volunteering and leading what was classed as a 'non church' group was also new to me, as we learned together with a grateful, joyous heart, giving thanks as we: - year 1, focused on appreciating God and praise, "Come near to God and he will come near to you", - year 2, God's might and having awe of God, - year 3, God's closeness and intimacy, - year 4, being alive in Christ, - year 5, understanding and knowing that the Lord delights in exercising kindness, justice and righteousness on earth.

Then an invite to be part of a Church plant bringing more and more people to Christ, sharing the word and living out the word, I could read for hours, research for hours per day studying the word enjoying every moment praising the Lord and then to relay this to a congregation, both the preparation and the time with people a joy.

This desire within studying the Holy Word never left as new ways and new forms of expressing this happens, when one door closes another opens and being enabled through our Lord and Saviour's grace makes the engagements flow with such beauty. Growing numbers at 121, tender times at Crossreach as lock down came into effect and another invite being part of a team reaching daily into people's homes, a hospice, those shielding through the Holy word, song, prayer and image.

Reading scripture in preparation not only reveals, teaches, it enlivens, stirs our conscience and awakens us bringing a deep love and ability to trust and rely on our Lord and Saviour even though we do not know what lies ahead we know He is with us.

Alison Hay

# Give the Guild a Go!

Throughout the pandemic, the Guild has been a church group that has stubbornly kept going. We switched to Zoom meetings, and we kept in touch by phone with our members who were unable to connect via Zoom. As we conclude the three-year Guild strategy "One Journey Many Roads", we have all been on an incredible journey we had not anticipated. The Guild and the Guild Zoom meetings have been very important to me personally over the past year, and I would like to thank Elma Doig, our outgoing convener, for taking on the challenge of organising Zoom meetings – I am sure she felt this was not what she had signed up for!

While we are gradually moving out of Covid-19 restrictions and are cautiously beginning to make plans for the future again, the Guild is embarking on the next three years with its new strategy, "Looking Forward in Faith". The theme for 2021-2022 is "Lights and Bushels", and the projects we will support are the Unida Project "Hear Our Voice", which is based in Brazil and aims to empower young women through theological training, and a project by the Scottish charity Homes for Good, which seeks to find homes for vulnerable people. You will hear more about our theme and projects over the year.

Looking ahead, we are in the process of putting together the syllabus from September to Christmas. We don't know yet to what extent we will be able to meet face to face, but whatever happens, we'll be there! We are also planning our Guild Week, which will start with a church service on Sunday 5 September and will involve various fundraising activities, including an outdoor quiz and a fun evening on Friday 9 September. You can find further information on the church notice board and on the church Facebook page. Why not have a chat with one of our committee members (they are listed on the notice board) or contact me at [hildetenhacken@hotmail.com](mailto:hildetenhacken@hotmail.com).

I first joined the DPC Guild four years ago, and from the beginning I was deeply impressed by the welcoming attitude and commitment of its members. As I am taking on the role of DPC Guild convener, I am very much looking forward to working with the Guild and getting to know more people at the church. I am a member of a church in North Berwick, where my partner Ken lives and where I am most weekends, but hopefully I will be able to meet more DPC folk in the years to come.

Meanwhile, all I can say is: give the Guild a go! You will be very welcome at any of our meetings or events, whether you want to join us or just occasionally drop by. Our "official" programme starts in September, but we will continue to meet over the summer. See you at the Guild!

Hilde ten Hacken



At our first summer Zoom meeting we had some fun showing off our kitchen gadgets and telling each other about the stories behind them.

Our very busy hall-letting team have been keeping up to date on the various rulings from government and church, and we will 'proceed with caution'.

At our last Kirk Session Meeting it was agreed that we will restart letting our halls on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021, subject to current regulations at the time allowing us to do this.



## Church Family

### **New Members**

Mr Raymond & Mrs Marian Adamson

### **Deceased**

Mrs Isobel Michael

Mr Malcolm Lappin

Mrs Anne Shields

### **Members left**

Mrs Gayle Airth

Mrs Frances Christopher

Mrs Alison Murray

Mrs Dorothy Potter

### **Baptism**

Elspeth Brough

## Who To Contact

### **Minister**

Rev Christine Sime, 01383 822316, [CSime@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CSime@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### **Session Clerk**

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