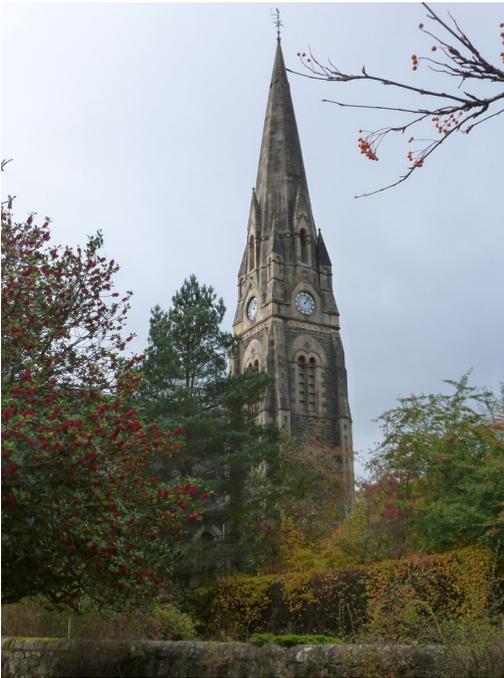


OUTLOOK

The Parish Newsletter Published by
Comrie & Dundurn Churches

Stewardship
A way of living



Times of Worship

Comrie 10.00 am

Dundurn 11.30 am

Issue No 48 February 2019

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Comrie Parish Church of Scotland is a Registered Charity (SC001878)

Dundurn Parish Church of Scotland St Fillans is a Registered Charity (SC0103110)

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Holy Communion
Sunday 24th February
Comrie 10.00 am & 6.00 pm
Dundurn 11.30 am



*Communion is open not just to
members but to all who share the
Christian Faith*

Letter from the Vestry

Dear All,

2019 seems to be a year of change. For the country Brexit is looming. And for the local churches, as someone coined, so too is Grexit.

On Sunday 20th January, with mixed emotions, I informed the congregations that I had accepted the invitation to Preach as Nominee for the vacant Charge of Fairlie linked with Largs: St Columba's, on the west coast. On that same day, the congregations at Fairlie and Largs were also informed. What this means is that, on 3rd February, I will lead worship in both churches, after which the congregations will vote to determine whether or not I have the necessary God-given gifts to lead them on the next stage of their journey of faith. Should this result be positive, my last service as minister of Comrie and Dundurn will be on 3rd March. During the following week my family will leave the manse in Comrie to take up residence of the manse in Fairlie. As with my arrival, a service of induction will then take place in Largs: St Columba's on the evening of either 12th or 13th March. There is an open invitation for anyone to come along.

When a minister leaves a Charge the local congregations go through a specific process to find a new minister. This process can take some time and involves the appointment of an Interim Moderator, who will oversee the process, and electing members of the worshipping community who will act as a Nominating Committee, a 'search party' to find the new minister.

It has been 13½ years since my family and I arrived in the communities of Comrie and St Fillans, and we have been immensely blessed during this time. The work that has been done has been to the glory of God and because of this the people and the buildings are in good order, spiritually and physically. In the bible (Acts 16), we read that St Paul *"had a vision in which he saw a Macedonian standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" As soon as Paul had this vision, we got ready to leave for Macedonia, because we decided that God had called us to preach the Good News to the people there."* While I cannot say that I had a vision, certain things were said to me which has given me a similar call. So, while there is never a good time to leave, I believe that the time is right. New challenges lie ahead.

On behalf of my family, I want to thank everyone who has helped make my ministry in our communities so richly blessed. We have been involved in many aspects of village-life, some more memorable than others, and have made many friends whom we have grown to love and care for. We will miss you. However, should you be travelling through Fairlie/Largs, please seek us out.

For now, I pray for God's continued guidance upon all the work that is done in His name. And, while this may be a challenging year for all of us, Jesus assures us that God loves us and, especially in times of challenge or change, will never leave us nor forsake us. With this knowledge we can all look to the future with hope and expectation.

Thank you for all the love, support and care you have shown to us as a family through these last years.

Yours in Christ.



Graham



Parish Register

Baptism

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Romans 6: 4]

November

- 18th Stanley James Philip Ritchie, Balgeddie Gardens, Glenrothes
25th Argyll James Woodman, Wales
Abigail Ann Woodman, Wales

Deaths

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

[John 11: 25-26]

September

- 11th Ann Christie, Richmond House, Crieff

October

- 16th Edna Buchan, Fowlis Wester

November

- 16th Chic Morris, Kintallen, Crieff

Scattering of Ashes

- 29th June: Agnes O'Harney, Surrey
29th November: Joy McCulloch, Norwich

Holy Week Services of Worship

[15th - 19th April]



Dundurn Parish Church

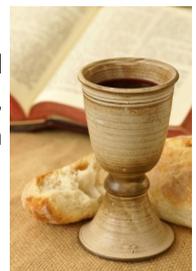
Wed	: Timeout at lunchtime	12.00 noon
Easter Sunday	: Service of worship and celebration	11.30 am

Comrie Parish Church

Mon-Thurs	: Walking <i>His</i> way (Holy Communion : Thursday evening)	7.00pm
Good Friday	: Period of Reflection and Prayer	2.45 – 3.15pm
	: Service of worship and reflection	7.00pm
Easter Sunday	: Early Morning Service	8.00 am
	: Service of worship and celebration	10.00am

Home Communion

Have you missed Communion due to your health? If you would like to celebrate the sacrament of Communion in your own home, please let your Elder know so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



Diary of coming events

February

- 1st Cameron Court Worship (2.00pm)
- 3rd Traidcraft Stall at Comrie
- 6th Guild Meeting (Judy McDowell)
- 12th Comrie Kirk Session
- 13th Monthly Sing-a-long (2.00pm)
- 14-15th School In-set Day
- 20th Mid-week Worship (12.00-12.20)
Guild Meeting (Report & Video of Annual Gathering 2018)
- 24th Holy Communion (Commissioning service for Rev Bob Milne)

March

- 1st World Day of Prayer
Cameron Court Worship (2.00pm)
- 3rd Traidcraft Stall at Comrie
- 6th Ash Wednesday
Lent Lunch and Bible Study (12.00: followed by soup)
Guild Meeting (Liz Cunningham: Cruse Bereavement Counselling)
- 9th Presbytery Meet at Dunbarney & Forgandenny
- 13th Lent Bible Study at Comrie (12.00: followed by soup)
Monthly Sing-a-long (2.00pm)
- 20th Lent Bible Study at Comrie (12.00: followed by soup)
Guild Meeting (AGM 7 Discussion Topic)
- 26th Comrie Kirk Session
- 27th Lent Bible Study at Comrie (12.00: followed by soup)
- 29th Schools close for Easter Holidays
- 31st British Summer Time - Clocks Change

April

- 3rd Lent Bible Study at Comrie (12.00: followed by soup)
Guild Daffodil Tea
- 5th Cameron Court Worship (2.00pm)
- 7th Traidcraft Stall at Comrie
- 10th Lent Bible Study at Comrie (12.00: followed by soup)
Monthly Sing-a-long: Birthday Party (2.00pm)
- 14th Palm Sunday

- 15-19th HOLY WEEK
- 21st Easter Day
- 27th Wedding at Comrie

May

- 3rd Cameron Court Worship (2.00pm)
- 8th Monthly Sing-a-long (2.00pm)
- 11th Wedding at Dundurn
- 14th Comrie Kirk Session Meeting
- 12th-18th Christian Aid Week
- 18th-24th Church of Scotland General Assembly meet in Edinburgh
- 25th Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Sandison Hall, St Fillans

June

- 7th Cameron Court Worship (2.00pm)
- 8th Presbytery of Perth meet at Comrie
- 9th Pentecost Sunday
- Traidcraft Stall at Comrie
- 12th Monthly Sing-a-long (2.00pm)
- 16th Trinity Sunday
- Father's Day
- 21st Comrie Primary School Prizegiving
- 23rd Holy Communion
- 25th Summer Celebration

Comrie Village Diary



The village diary can be viewed and entries made at The White Church office. If you are planning something in the village checking this diary will allow you to choose a day that does not fall on, or clash with, other similar events in the village. Please call the

Manager of the White Church: Fiona Stewart : 679001



Comrie Parish Church Website

We now have a new website

www.comrieparishchurch.org

Why not take a look?

The website has been up and running since the beginning of December and has had all the information about Christmas Worship.

It will be updated regularly, so look out for all the events being posted on the Home page.

Christian Aid Week 2019: 12th -18th May



Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action.

A few years ago all the efforts to raise money for the work of Christian Aid as it works to bring an end to poverty around the world - *tackling its root causes as well as its effects* - was concentrated on the official 'Christian Aid Week'. However, due to the busy-ness of many people, over the last few years the churches have spread the effort through the year. In addition to the door-to-door collections which take place across Comrie & St Fillans, there is also a coffee morning, hosted by Dundurn Parish Church, in the Sandison Hall, St Fillans at the end of Christian Aid week.

Great thanks are due to Judy McDowall and Elma Brierley who co-ordinate all the collectors, and to everyone who is involved in the arrangements for Christian Aid, who work with people in need whether they have a faith or not.

Comrie Parish Church Flower Rota

A schedule for the various Sundays through the year (2019) has been put up on the general Noticeboard in the Dundurn Hall. Please consider donating flowers for a Sunday at some point, and enter your name on the schedule. It would be helpful if you also enter a contact telephone number in the schedule so that you can be reminded of the date when necessary. It is not necessary to arrange flowers yourself if you feel anxious about that - there



are a couple of people who would be willing to arrange them for you: speak to Judy McDowall who can provide a name or two. Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous, you can place a donation in the designated box in the Dundurn Hall, and the Flower Convener can use this to purchase flowers when needed. Thank you.



**Saturday 25th
May**

**Christian Aid Coffee
Morning**

10 - 12am

in the

Sandison Hall St Fillans

Sunday Lesson Readings

Comrie Parish Church

The Rota for reading the Sunday lessons for January to early July has been put up on the general Noticeboard in the Dundurn Hall. A further Rota will be put together for July to December / early January 2020 before the end of June 2019. Should anyone like to be included in this later Rota - or step down from being included - please let Judy McDowall know by mid-June. Thank you.



Comrie Church Hall & Annexe

If anyone would like to book the use of either the church hall or annexe at Comrie Parish Church please call the Church Secretary, Mrs Linda Bennett, 679555 on either a Tuesday or Friday morning. Alternatively, please check the diary which is available on the kitchen counter in the annexe.

And Finally.....

Q. What type of ring is always square?

A. A boxing ring.

Q. What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right hand?

A. Your right elbow.

Q. If a farmer has two eggs for breakfast every morning, but he doesn't own any chickens and he doesn't get them from anyone else, where do the eggs come from?

A. From his ducks.

Q. Which burns longer, a red candle or a white candle?

A. Neither, they both burn shorter.

Q. If King Kong went to Hong Kong to play ping-pong and died, what would they put on his coffin?

A. A lid.

Q. If a girl who works in a sweetie shop is five feet three inches tall, and wears size five shoes, what does she weigh?

A. Sweeties!

Searching - Seeking - Finding

I often feel that many people and even ourselves ask the question: Who is God? What is He like? Can we actually know Him? I suppose we could say: 'It's an unanswerable question'.

Theologians spend a life time searching for an answer but I'm not sure if many have set the heather on fire or attained a much deeper insight than their fellow man.

It could be said that such religious writers as Martin Buber in his work "I and Thou" do get quite close to an insight of the Divine but I'm not sure that intellectual skills provide what the common man needs. I would say that is not we ourselves who have the solution. But it is God himself who broke into the brick wall of history and spoke to us in a language which no one could complain about or misunderstand. His message was not so much of words but actually of flesh and blood of a man.



The follower of Jesus in his letter to the young Church has it. "No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us."

The reality of our faith is not that we love God but that He loves each one of us. It's hard to believe but we can't deny it. Love is a wonderful thing. We don't have to look far to feel God. Every kindly action we do He's right there.

Advent Celebration



At the beginning of Advent the members of Dundurn Parish Church organised an activity evening and supper for the people of St Fillans. About 20 people came along and had a fun time making different kinds of decorations, having a quiz, and enjoying a supper. Next Advent it is hoped to arrange another

celebration. However, since many of the activities would be suitable for children, we hope to do it at lunchtime. Thanks to everyone who was involved.



During Autumn 2018, news was received that Traidcraft plc - the trading arm of Traidcraft Exchange - might well cease trading. There was a lot of discussion between Management and staff, as well as with some customers and suppliers over the Autumn months. In the end, the decision was taken to keep the food side of the business going, whilst making some of the office staff redundant. As far as Comrie is concerned, the Traidcraft stall will continue after the Sunday service on the first Sunday of the month, with only small changes to what items will be available.

The biggest effect within this FairTrade organisation will be on the suppliers of clothes / toys / wooden goods and other non-food products. Traidcraft Exchange is working hard to minimise as far as possible the inevitable effect on producers of such items, trying to find new outlets for them. The organisation also continues to help with encouraging producers to group together giving stronger purchasing power for acquiring necessary materials; and greater strength in bargaining with middlemen for their local sales.

I sincerely hope that members of the Comrie congregation will continue to support the stall, and our fellow men - and women - from the poorer areas of our world, so that they can continue to afford to support their families and educate their children.

Judy McDowall

Traidcraft Stall Dates (Comrie Parish Church)

February to July 2019

Sunday 3rd February

Sunday 3rd March

Sunday 7th April

Sunday 5th May

Sunday 2nd June

Sunday 7th July

Outdoor Nativity & Christmas Eve

And so the snows came!

You couldn't make it up. For the second year our annual Outdoor Nativity at Auchingarrich had to be cancelled because of adverse weather. The snow started on the Saturday afternoon and by the Saturday night Auchingarrich was inaccessible. We're only thankful that Andrew and Maxine and everyone at the wildlife park was safe.



On Sunday, the situation didn't improve and there was no way it was going to be possible to have our Outdoor Nativity. As it is a wonderful event, everyone was disappointed.

On Nativity Sunday, 23rd December, the weather couldn't have been more different. As a result it was possible to bring the animals (again) to the church: sheep, goats; and ponies. Bethlehem was bedlam!

Our Nativity play proceeded and, as if to give formal approval of the start, one of the sheep inside the church gave its blessing with a loud bleat. The service was a blessing. Mary and Joseph proceeded to the stable; shepherds were sung to by angels before travelling the journey themselves, meeting a few villagers on the way. Then, eventually, the wise men (three King David's) spoke with a terrifying King Herod, before managing to get to meet the baby Jesus. Hymns and Carols were sung by the congregation, led by our church choir.

Mile of 2ps

Since 2009 the children of Sunday Club have collected loose change from members of both churches, and even from within the communities. We don't often miss loose change but, over the years, these efforts have raised over 5 miles worth of 2p coins..... approximately £7,000. The Sunday Club have given the majority of this money to Water Aid, and would like to thank everyone who has continued to collect their loose change and bring it along to the church. Through your continued generosity the fifth mile has begun.



Western Strathearn Youth Clubs

Our partnership with YMCA has now come to an end. Danyell has gone on maternity leave and is not able to work evenings after the birth of her child. Accordingly the new arrangements for delivery of our Youth Clubs are as follows:

Primary 5 will now join 6 and 7 and continue to meet on a Friday evening in the Church Hall at a revised time of 6.00 to 8.00. S 1 will now meet with the teenage youth club. Fiona Perry is taking charge of the young ones along with a number of volunteers, including Pauline Booth, Joan Murdock, Barry Curran and Eilidh Graham. The first meeting will be on Friday 18th January and weekly thereafter. Fiona has only just been appointed, so more details will be sent direct to parents and released via the Primary School.

The teenage youth club will now join with Logos in Crieff who have been running youth clubs for thirty years with considerable success. The Logos schedule is as follows:

Tuesday	7.00 to 9.00	: S1
Thursday	7.00 to 9.00	: S2 and 3
Friday.	7.00 to 10.00	: All Secondary years.

Logos are planning extended sessions from time to time on a Saturday.

For details of Logos, please see the *Logos Youth Project* site at Perth & Kinross Council web site.

The Church tested the demand from our teenagers by running the CoCo Bus on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings for two weeks at the end of January, but there was no take up. There is a good Bus service on Friday evenings, but not so good on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If any teenagers wish to attend on any of the evenings and have difficulties with transport, please telephone David Hustwayte on 01764 670271.

After Easter Logos intend to hold events in Comrie to stimulate interest.

Comrie YouthProject



A massive Happy New Year from us all at *Ignite* youth project. We are very excited for 2019!!

Wednesday and Friday evenings

While we are sad to say farewell to Danyell Bowater, who has gone on maternity leave, our Wednesday and Friday Youth Clubs are now being co-ordinated and run by Fiona Perry. Friday night from 6.30pm - 8.00pm for p6 - s1 is now well established and has a continued high number of attendees which is great. But some changes are in the planning stages, involving food. So look out for adverts etc. Our Wednesday evening drop-in from 7pm – 9pm for all s2 – s4s is changing. To provide the best resources available to the teenagers in Comrie and St Fillans, we're now providing free transport into Logos, in Crieff; on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please see the adverts on the new website: comrieparishchurch.org Logos has years of experience and is well-known by many teenagers. It a safe place for local teenagers to hangout, play pool, chat with friends and youth workers and much more. Why not come along?

Volunteers

The Youth & Education committee would like to offer tremendous thanks to Danyell Bowater for all that she has done with our young people, together with Pauline Booth and David Weinman for the voluntary work they have done throughout the last year. If it wasn't for you, and the local sponsors, we couldn't keep the project running and developing. We are always looking for new volunteers so, if you have a little time to spare please speak to Fiona Perry or David Hustwayte.

Anyone who is interested in youth work, or in becoming a volunteer driver to take the teenagers to/from Logos, is welcome to volunteer to help. Enhanced Disclosure is required.



The Church of Scotland Guild have included The Boys' Brigade as one of their Project Partners for 2018 – 21. The Guild's Project Scheme sees them work with six Christian charities over a three year period with aim of prayerful and reflective support, raising awareness of the Project's work and raising funds to assist. To this end Comrie & Dundurn Guild have invited Dr Ian Pinkerton, senior Elder in Comrie & a former member of the BB, to speak at their January meeting.

Ian was a member of the 130th Glasgow Coy. in the 1940's. While a medical student he instructed in the First Aid class and prior to National Service in the RAMC was the Camp Doctor at two BB summer camps.

Unexpected circumstances saw him demob'd 2 weeks early (without pay) to undertake this duty at the 1954 Founder's International Camp at Eton. This event, to commemorate the centenary of the birth of the Founder, William Smith (later Sir William) was attended by 2,500 Boys. One from every company in the now international BB organisation. The camp was uneventful from a medical aspect but was the first of five similar events for Ian, over several years, at Glenalmond, Scone Palace, Ayr & Aberdeen.

This long association is paled by his wife Ena, a long time Guild member, whose father was a member of the 1st Glasgow BB company when William Smith was the Captain.

The Boys' Brigade was formed in Glasgow in 1883 by a 29year old businessman, Sunday school teacher & officer in the Volunteer forces.

The Object was and is the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the Promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness. The Anchor emblem and the Motto 'Sure and Steadfast' were chosen from the beginning and are a quote from the Epistle to the Hebrews in the Authorised Version of the New Testament.

Ena's Dad, Arthur Graham, became a piper in the BB and later in the Seaforths during WW1'. He was wounded in France but survived and was awarded the MM.

Ena provided him with two grandsons, the first to learn the pipes was to inherit his instrument. The younger son, Alasdair, qualified. He became a BB Captain and the pipes are still played in the Edinburgh Battalion band.

Notes from the Guild



We now start the New Year with one of our Projects for this Session – ‘ The Boys Brigade’.

We look forward to a talk from Dr Ian Pinkerton on 16th January, telling us more of this excellent organisation. As the Guild has a strong link with the Youth Assembly it is good that we have a youth movement within the projects we support.

Our Theme this year is “One Journey Many Roads” and so following the theme, we welcome Estelle Nicol to our next meeting at the end of January. Estelle was trekking in Costa Rica and Madagascar raising money for Marie Curie Nurses and we so look forward to hearing of her travels.

In February we welcome Judy McDowall to tell us of her many travels.

We would very much like to welcome you to any of our meeting, held in the Annexe of Comrie Parish Church Hall on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 2pm. A copy of the Syllabus is on the notice board in the Dundurn Hall, so that you may check dates and programme.

The Session ends with our Daffodil Tea on April 3rd.

Easter Choir

The Church choir welcomes anyone who wants to come and sing (no auditions, singers of all ages welcome). We will meet from Sunday 24th February 2019 at 3.00pm in Comrie Parish Church.

To find out more please contact:

Charles Sim on 01567 830257 or just come along.



24-hour Bible Reading

The churches in our communities are able to support those in need in many different ways because we believe in the proclamation of the Word of God found in the Bible. In order to continue in this proclamation, the Kirk Session at Dundurn Parish Church have agreed to dedicate a full 24 hour period to reading the bible aloud.



This will take place in Dundurn Parish Church during Lent, from 11.30am on Saturday 6th April until 11.30am on 7th April, and will be followed by Sunday morning worship. Slots for reading scripture will be 30 minutes long, although people can agree to read for longer. Volunteers from within the communities of Comrie and St Fillans are being sought fill the 24 hour period. If you would like to volunteer for a particular time slot, during the early hours of the morning may be challenging, please speak to Elma Brierley (685427) or Liz Cunningham (685383). Also, please look out for further information. It is hoped that the congregations at Fairlie and Largs: St Columba's will also participate in this 24-hour Bible Reading.

The invisible homeless! Sponsored Sleepout!



When the weather is cold we can feel especially anxious and concerned about the increasing numbers of homeless people of all ages on our streets and towns. Have you noticed the increase in Perth and Stirling? But how can we identify with them? On 7th June, the night before the Presbytery of Perth meet in Comrie Parish Church, a BBQ followed by a sponsored sleepout will

take place in St Fillans. Everyone is invited to participate. The BBQ will take place on the shore and the sleepout will take place in the grounds of Dundurn Parish Church. Any money raised will go to local homeless shelters. It would be great if the communities of Comrie and St Fillans could actively demonstrate our recognition of the increasing numbers of homeless in our society by taking part. Further information and sponsor forms will be made available nearer the time but, if you keep a diary, maybe you could pencil the date in. As the homeless are all ages, we're inviting all ages to participate.

Mairi Philp receiving her BEM (British Empire Medal) on 14th November 2018



Shoe Box appeal

Messy Church



Professor Susan Hardman Moore



It was a wonderful day on 14th September when our very own Susan Hardman Moore was installed as the Principal of New College. New College is where trainees for Ministry study at Edinburgh University, and Susan is now the person responsible for each and every one of them.

Susan is married to John, and their children Helena and Rannoch are also well-known around the village. We are delighted to share in Susan's success. A blessing to us all.

St Kessog's Square

During October the ground to the north of St Kessog's Square was cleared of all debris and the area was opened for everyone to see. This was the first step in the redevelopment of the land and the church was delighted that the opening of this space allowed the successful switch-on of the Christmas lights to be celebrated in one safe space. At the end of January, the warrants required as part of the planning process will be submitted to Perth and Kinross Council. Only after these warrants have been negotiated and approved will it be possible for a timescale to be drawn up for the Contractors, AB Gairns, to enter the site and redevelop it, in keeping with the planning approval, which has already been received. Once a timescale is approved by the Kirk Session it will be posted on the notice board in St Kessog's Square, and published on the new church website: comrieparishchurch.org



The Kirk Session would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has been involved in fundraising for the redevelopment of St Kessog's Square. While some donations have been given anonymously, and for which we are indebted, other funding has come from AllChurches, Steinmeyer Legacy Fund, Gannochy Trust, Local Funding Sources, and Bumblebee Square. We are immensely grateful for the generosity shown towards Comrie Parish Church as we endeavour to provide a space which will benefit the community and visitors for generations to come.

Sing-a-long



It will be 7 years since sing-a-long began. And a birthday celebration is planned for 10th April; to which everyone is invited. As a community we are so blessed that Sing-a-long has grown from strength to strength and continues to have an average attendance of well over 80, with the Christmas gathering being especially good.

Lots of people enjoy singing and the monthly gatherings allow voices to be raised in a way that it doesn't matter if you're not very tuneful...everyone around is the same; but, together, it sounds good. People who suffer from dementia may not be able to recall all the events of their lives, and this can sometimes be frustrating for them, but they can often remember and enjoy singing old and familiar songs and hymns; and the Sing-a-long gatherings allow them do this. Therefore, the monthly Sing-a-long is especially appropriate for them, and their carers.

If you know someone who would enjoy coming along for a sing-a-long and a cuppa with home-baking, then please see the Diary of Coming Events at the front of Outlook for the dates and times. If transport is required...just give Mairi a call (670570)...and she will organise something suitable.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest time is always special at Comrie and Dundurn, and this year was no exception. Produce from land, sea and sky were brought to church and made a wonderful display; as we gave God thanks for the blessings He has given to us. While many around the world starve this is more a government policy decision to keep the riches rather than share them equally with everyone. So, it is always the policy at the churches that produce brought to church is shared around the villages and this year more than 90 households benefitted from our Harvest Thanksgiving.



If you received a package, we hope that you enjoyed it.

An old lady passed away in a nursing home, the next morning her nurse found this note.

“See Me”

What do you see, Nurses, what do you see?
What are you thinking, when you look at me?
A crabby old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far away eyes.
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.....
Who unresisting or not, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you’re thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes Nurse, you’re looking at **ME**.....



I’ll tell you who I am, as I sit here so still;
As I rise at your bidding and eat at your will.
I’m a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and Sisters who love one another.
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet,
Dreaming that soon, a lover she’ll meet.
A Bride soon at twenty - my heart gives a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five I have young of my own,
Who needs me to build a secure happy home.
A woman of thirty, my young now grows fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At Fifty, once more babies play round my knee.
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead.
I look at the future, I shudder with dread.
For my young are rearing young of their own,
And I think of the years and the love that I’ve known.
I’m an old woman now and nature is cruel,
‘Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I think of the years, all too few - gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, Nurse, open and see,
Not a crabby old woman, look closer - **see ME**.

*Never take our elderly for granted,
in each aging body dwells a spirit that wants to stay young.*

Perthshire Women's Aid



Towards the end of the year Perthshire Women's Aid made a plea for help and support for vulnerable women and their families. This was an appeal which struck at the heart of the Elders and members of Comrie and Dundurn. In response, the members of both churches purchased items for women, teenagers and children. As it was Advent, the collecting point was at the crib inside the front door of Comrie Parish Church. Within two weeks the nativity stable was full of new gifts. On 15th December, more than 20 bags full of gifts were taken to Merlin House, in Perth, where they were distributed to those who found themselves most vulnerable at Christmas time. The workers and volunteers at Perthshire Women's Aid would like to thank everyone from Comrie and St Fillans who made the effort to support their worthwhile cause.

Crieff Foodbank

For more than three years the local churches have regularly supported the foodbank in Crieff, and now provide a drop off spot for donations. On a monthly basis a member of Comrie Parish Church takes the food from the collecting boxes to Logos in Crieff, where it is distributed to those in need. While at certain times of the year it is good to be prompted to consider how we can help others in need, these drop off points are vital all year long. Items regularly required include; tinned vegetables, tinned or instant mashed potatoes, tinned tomatoes, long life fruit juice, shampoo/conditioner, washing up liquid, small washing powders, strong carrier bags e.g. bags for life.



Twas the week after Christmas!



Twas the week after Christmas and all through the house
nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The biscuits I'd nibbled, the chocolate I'd taste,
all of the parties, had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to my chair (less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared;
the gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
and the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip,
get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food, that I like, must be banished
till all the additional pounds have vanished.

I won't have an ice-cream, not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have a biscuit, buttered bread, or a pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry:
I'm hungry,
I'm lonesome,
and life is a bore.

But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all, and to all a good diet!

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Our advertising rates are:

Full page £125, Half page £65 and Quarter page £45 all per issue.

For further information please contact Margaret Sim at simlochearn@gmail.com

Dundurn Flowers

January: and the little snowdrop heralds the start of a new year in the garden with a promise of more blooms to come.

So we look forward to another year of flowers adorning our lovely little Church.

I am so grateful to my team of ladies who help in this way: some of them more than once. They know the joy of taking "time out" from busy days to enjoy working with flowers in the peace of the Kirk.

Each lady has her own way with flowers.....all beautiful.

For various reasons the number of "flower ladies" has decreased over the past few years so I appeal to anyone who would like to take part in this lovely way of contributing to worship to join the team.

The gift of flowers during services brings pleasure and often comfort to many people who so often express gratitude. There are no rules about size or style.....and this can be a wonderful way to have fun trying out your own designs.....so have a go!

This Spring /Summer, I enjoyed picking clouds of Cow Parsley from the hedgerows, putting together a posy of garden flowers and an all-foliage arrangement. Berries, seeds and dry grasses are so effective in an Autumn arrangement and a walk round the garden or in the countryside will reveal all kinds of treasures.... no cost involved! A simple vase of daffodils or tulips (my personal favourite!) give as much-or more -joy as a "posh" arrangement.

Please do consider joining our little team and help beautify our wonderful wee Kirk.

Many thanks to my friends who helped in 2018.. I look forward to your lovely flowers this year!

Cathy Moncrieff



WHY NOT DROP INTO THE
CHURCH HALL ANNEXE
FOR A CUP OF
TEA/COFFEE
AND A CHAT ON
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
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It's a funny old world!

The end is nigh!

Three dinosaurs stumble across a magic lamp. They rub it, and a genie appears. "I have three wishes, so I'll give one to each of you," the genie announces. The first dinosaur thinks hard.

"Alright," he says, "I'll have a big, juicy, piece of meat." Instantly, the biggest, juiciest piece of meat he'd ever seen appears in front of him. Not

to be outdone, the second dinosaur thinks even harder. "I know! I'll have a shower of meat!" Immediately, huge pieces of meat rain down around him. The third dinosaur, certainly not to be outdone, thinks harder than the previous dinosaurs. "I've got it!" he cries, "I want a MEATIER shower!"



Oh, to be a monk!

A man is driving down the road and breaks down near a monastery. He goes to the monastery, knocks on the door, and says, "My car broke down". Do you think I could stay the night?" The monks graciously accept him, feed him dinner, even fix his car. As the man tries to fall asleep, he hears a strange sound.



The next morning, he asks the monks what the sound was, but they say, "We can't tell you. You're not a monk." The man is disappointed but thanks them anyway and goes about his merry way. Some years later, the same man breaks down in front of the same monastery. The monks accept him, feed him, even fix his car. That night, he hears the same strange noise that he had heard years earlier. The next morning, he

asks what it is, but the monks reply, "We can't tell you. You're not a monk."

The man says, "All right, all right. I'm dying to know. If the only way I can find out what that sound was is to become a monk, how do I become a monk?"

The monks reply, "You must travel the earth and tell us how many blades of grass there are and the exact number of pebbles. When you find these numbers, you will become a monk."

The man sets about his task. Forty-five years later, he returns and knocks on the door of the monastery. He says, "I have travelled the earth and have found what you have asked for. There are 145,236,284,232 blades of grass and 231,281,219,999,129,382 pebbles on the earth."

The monks reply, "Congratulations. You are now a monk. We shall now show you the way to the sound." The monks lead the man to a wooden door, where the head monk says, "The sound is right behind that door." The man reaches for the knob, but the door is locked. He says, "Real funny. May I have the key?" The monks give him the key, and he opens the door. Behind the wooden door is another door made of stone. The man demands the key to the stone door. The monks give him the key, and he opens it, only to find a door made of ruby. He demands another key from the monks, who provide it. Behind that door is another door, this one made of sapphire. So it went until the man had gone through doors of emerald, silver, topaz, and amethyst. Finally, the monks say, "This is the last key to the last door." The man is relieved to no end.

He unlocks the door, turns the knob, and behind that door he is amazed to find the source of that strange sound. But I can't tell you what it is because you're not a monk.

The DNA Test

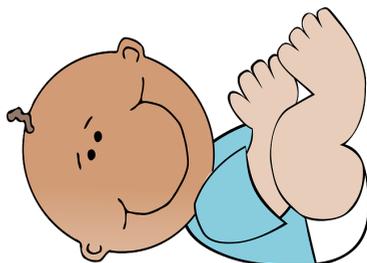
After 3 years, a wife starts to think that their child looks different, so she decides to do a DNA test. She finds out that the child is actually from completely different parents.

Wife: "Honey, I have something very serious to tell you."

Husband: "What's wrong?"

Wife: "According to DNA test results, this is not our child."

Husband: "Well don't you remember? When we were leaving the hospital, we noticed that our baby had a wet diaper and you said, 'Honey, go change the baby, I'll wait for you here'."



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A Prayer for Brexit & Grexit

God, who in Jesus, broke down all barriers,
between people of different races
 rich and poor,
 male and female,
 Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship You.



God, at this time of heavy responsibility,
as decisions about future relationships
with our neighbours in Europe are being taken,
we pray for our leaders:
 that they will lead wisely;
 that they will listen attentively;
 that they will exercise grace;
and that they will know peace
in their deliberations.

God, at this time of uncertainty,
within our church communities,
we pray for ourselves:
that we will remain open to the stranger;
 welcoming to the neighbour;
 and committed to those who struggle.
that we might be a community that points to heaven,
and shows ways in which heaven is glimpsed on earth.

God, who in Jesus, breaks down all barriers,
between people of different races
 rich and poor,
 male and female,
 Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship You. Amen.

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Articles for the next issue of **OUTLOOK** should be submitted by
Friday 10th May 2019.

Please email you articles to Margaret Sim at;

simlochearn@gmail.com or hand them into the Church Office in the Church
Hall Annexe.



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