



Parish Voice

October 2023 - Special Edition

Mission Statement: To be a place of Christian worship and outreach and a hub for the community enabling people to connect with Jesus and one another.

FROM THE MANSE

Mark Twain once said that the only person who likes change is a wet baby. Perhaps, we know what Twain was talking about, but change is a part of life as we all know so well. It can be an energizing force for progress but if not handled well, it can also be a force for stagnation and regression.

let's talk.

change

Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church and the churches in the Lower Earn Network, are also facing a lot of change. We are now beginning to implement the first part of the Presbytery Mission Plan. Dunbarney and Forgandenny will now "link" with Aberdalgie and Forteviot Church and then with Abernethy Church next year. Finally, it will become the 'supervising congregation' to Dunning Church when it becomes a Local Mission Church. There will be one minister from Abernethy to Dunning. All of this is in addition to the exciting plans we have for refurbishment at Dunbarney and the ongoing mission and ministry of the congregation. Yes, a lot is going on!

My Vote
My Voice

On **Sunday 29th October** following morning worship at **Forgandenny Church**, there will be a congregational vote when members and recognised adherents will be asked (by paper ballot) if they agree or disagree to the first part of the Presbytery Plan - Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church linking with Aberdalgie and Forteviot Church.

The wording of the 'Basis of Linking' can be found below. If you have any questions about this, please contact the office by email dfpoffice@btconnect.com or phone 01738 812463. Members and adherents are invited to attend on that occasion and to have their voice heard.

During this time of change it's important, however, to remember that God never changes ... this is the bedrock of our peace, security and confidence when facing the past, present and future! This is the anchor for dealing with all changes because God is the one thing that can be counted on *not* to change! The Apostle Paul knew this too when he was writing an encouraging letter to the church in Philippi. In that letter we read: ⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.* ⁵ *Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.* ⁶ *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians chapter 4)* These are appropriate words at a time of change. Paul encourages the Church to remember that although life might let you down, God never lets you down. Paul reminds them that the 'Lord is near' and they are to continue praying with thanksgiving. So, let us thank God for the wonderful fellowship that we enjoy in Dunbarney and Forgandenny but let us pray that during a time of readjustment that relationships are nurtured and built up and that nobody feels lost or forgotten. Every person in the congregation has an important part to play in caring for and building up one another during such a time. Moreover, there are exciting things happening too!

Rejoice
IN THE Lord ALWAYS.
I WILL SAY IT AGAIN:
Rejoice!
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

If at any stage, you begin to feel overwhelmed with all of this change, please do not hesitate to contact me (01738 812463) or Christian Macdonald - Pastoral Care Group (07739 311630). Let us keep all these changes in our prayers and may *we all know the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.*

Your minister and friend,
Allan

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH

BASIS OF LINKING

Aberdalgie & Forteviot with Dunbarney & Forgandenny

The congregation of Aberdalgie & Forteviot Church of Scotland (Scottish Charity Number SC 044503) and the congregation of Dunbarney & Forgandenny Church of Scotland (Scottish Charity Number SC 009638) shall be linked as from the 1st December 2023 or from a date as agreed by the Presbytery of Perth and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall remain the property and funds of each congregation.
2. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the linked charge shall be the combined designated parishes.
3. **Places of Worship:** All churches at present used and occupied by the congregations shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations. Services shall be conducted at times to be decided by the minister and the Kirk Sessions, subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
4. **Kirk Session:** The Minister of the linked charge shall be the Moderator of each Kirk Session.
5. **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of each congregation shall be administered as at present. The office-bearers of the congregations shall meet annually to decide on their portion of ministry expenses (as listed in the Regulations for Remuneration and Reimbursement of Parish Ministers 2015) and costs for the maintenance of the manse, as may be agreed from time to time by the office-bearers and subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
6. **Minister:** The Rev Allan J. Wilson, presently minister of Dunbarney and Forgandenny, shall be the minister of the linked charge in terms of section 8.2 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021).
7. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church shall be the manse of the linked congregations.
8. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the minister shall be payable in terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
9. **Ministerial assistance:** Ministerial assistance shall be provided in terms of the Perth Presbytery Legacy Plan. Individuals may be authorised to conduct worship only in terms of s.7 of the Parish Ministry Act 2018.
10. **Power to Readjust:** While these articles and terms shall form the Basis of Linkage for the congregations now linking, the linked congregations shall be free like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

REFURBISHMENT FUNDRAISING

What a wonderful day on 23rd September for our "100 years" celebration. It was such a happy day and the sum raised exceeded our expectations. A very big thank you must go to the Fundraising Team for their unstinting support throughout the planning and on the day. Also to the congregation and local community for joining in so enthusiastically.

If you have any ideas for a future fundraiser, please give me your suggestions.

Elizabeth Dalgetty

REFURBISHMENT

The plans for the refurbishment are on the church wall and on a board under the Moncreiffe Gallery in Dunbarney Church. What are the changes proposed? An imaginary walk through might look like this...

Come in through the front door and into the porch. Turn to your right and look through new glass doors closing off the entrance vestibule.



On entering the vestibule, you'll see that the old dark wood partition with the glass upper half facing you will have been removed. Instead, there will be see straight into the sanctuary through new bi-folding glass

doors. In the future people visiting us will not have to ask, 'Do I go to the left or do I go the right?' because it will be obvious where to go. These doors are hung beneath the leading edge of the balcony making the vestibule area larger and the sanctuary marginally smaller. (The balcony itself is not being altered.) These bi-fold doors can be opened up completely if we need the whole of the downstairs space to accommodate a very large gathering.



The new, enlarged, well-lit vestibule area will be a lovely welcoming space – we have been calling it the 'Hall of Friendship'. This space will be heated separately and can be used as another meeting space during the week.

On entering the sanctuary, you'll see that all the pews have been removed and comfortable chairs purchased, 50% of them will have arms. Currently two purple chairs in that style are in the church hall. Please try them! The chairs are light, stable and easily moveable so we can face east, face south, face whatever direction we like or sit in small groups. The chairs in Dunbarney Hall will also have been replaced with the same chairs and "dolleys" purchased to easily transport them to and from both areas. There is no pulpit, but a new lectern and flower stands have been made using the wood from the pulpit thanks to one of the members of the committee. The other chancel furniture remains the same, as is the organ. The lighting will be better along with the sound and audio visual system enabling everyone to hear and see things well.

What else will change? As an Eco-Congregation we are looking to the future and the heating system will have been updated to an air source heat pump which will be sited to the north of the church building in the small area beside the back door. The church will be fully insulated. Finally, the kitchen is going to be updated and made slightly bigger with a hatch opening into the sanctuary area.

We hope there is a bit of a WOW factor as you look into our newly refurbished building. What will you see? A warm welcoming space we hope. And when will all this work commence? The committee is working hard towards a starting date in spring/early summer but there is a lot still to do. If you have any questions, please speak to George Bell (Chairperson) or any member of the committee.

Anne Larg,
on behalf of the Refurbishment Group.

EARN SINGERS

The Earn Singers have restarted following the summer break. Our numbers have increased as we welcome some new members, and men, who wish to sing with us, can come along to rehearsals on Thursday evenings and give it a go! Preparations are underway for the annual concert in the spring of 2024, the music ranges from modern, musicals, Mozart and folk songs to name a few and hopefully there will be something for everyone.



We look forward to seeing you then, but before that you are warmly invited to our Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th December in Dunbarney Church Hall at 10am when, in addition to tasty Christmas fare, you will hear a variety of Christmas music and also have the opportunity to join in singing with some favourite Christmas songs and Carols.

Pat Paterson.