

Parish Voice

Autumn 2020

Our 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

Luigi Tarisio was born in Italy in 1796. He was a collector of violins and took great interest in scouting for rare finds and purchasing instruments of the finest quality. No one really knew about Tarisio's passion until after he died. It was while his estate was being appraised that some 246 valuable violins were discovered in his attic! One of the most expensive, hidden in the drawer of an old dresser, was a Stradivarius he'd purchased from someone who had also bought it solely as a collector's item.



Commenting on the find, one person noted that in preserving the instrument, Tarisio 'had robbed the world of music' just as the other collectors before him had done. In fact, by the time the greatest Stradivarius in his collection was finally played, 147 years had passed when hardly a note was played from this wonderful instrument.

I had never thought about this in this way, but I suppose it's true. These fine instruments were made to be placed in the hands of a person and through their playing to bring wonderful music to another. They were made to be played not simply collected.

They were made to be played not simply collected

As human beings we were made by God to live in community with others and be a blessing to them. It's for this reason that we are finding the present COVID restrictions so difficult, even though we know it is all for good reasons. Technology has been absolutely wonderful and without it we would have been in a worse place. Over these months we have become proficient in using a lot of this technology available to us for our benefit but we miss being in the physical presence of another person.

We long to be physically close to loved ones and receive their hugs and kisses. We long to be able to visit a doctor and have a discussion about our health conditions in their consultation room rather than on a phone call. We long to be able to go to a coffee shop at any time of the day and for staff to serve us rather than leaving our coffee on another table for us to collect. We long to return to our church buildings when once again, we will be able to laugh, speak out loud and sing together and enjoy a cup of coffee in the presence of others we enjoy. One day all of this will happen, but not quite yet.



This does not mean, however, that the Church should be treated like a valuable commodity that must be locked away. Instead, the church is to remain visible and called to make a difference in our community. I am grateful that over these few months, the church *has* been visible in a number of ways and to all those who have helped to make this happen, I want to say, 'thank you.'



You will know by now that the church buildings are now open for services of worship. As I write we have been open for a couple of weeks and both buildings have been used. It has been lovely to conduct worship with people sitting in the pews rather than looking at a camera. I know for those who have come along, it has felt slightly different, but at the same time it was good to be back.

Within the last month, everyone received a letter explaining how we have gone about opening our buildings. As you can imagine this has taken an enormous amount of work by a very small group to make this happen. As a church family we are truly blessed by many people within our congregation who have used their gifts

and talents to get us to the point that we can re-open. To everyone who has made this possible, I want to say, 'thank you.' The work that has been done is outstanding.

I am aware that not everyone can, nor should, return to physical church services again. However, during this period all of us can still be the church even if we are apart. We cannot simply put the church in a cupboard for safekeeping until better days. God gave us gifts and He expects us to use them wherever we might be. Jesus said "You are the world's seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavour, what will happen to the world? You are the world's light – a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see' (Matthew 5:13-14). God still wants us to discover our talents, develop them to the fullest, and use them to glorify Him and bless others.



This is a very important message for us all over the coming weeks and months. We may not be able to physically go to a church building, but I do urge you to take time and take stock of the gifts and talents God has given you and ask you to reflect on your part in our church family and how you can use these to maintain and build the work of the church during these strange times where you are. One part of the body cannot work in isolation from another. So please keep in touch with one another and if someone is a cause for concern please let the Pastoral Coordinator or myself know.

In such an uncertain and strange time, let us also grow as a people of prayer and commit everything into God's safe keeping. Those who pray together, stay together. As people of faith we must rediscover the gifts that God has blessed us with and use them to his glory and praise. Let's not put them in a cupboard for safe keeping otherwise we might just be starving our community of the music that would be such a blessing.

May God grant you His peace as we journey into the coming weeks and months, together.

With every blessing,
Your minister and friend,
Allan



THANK YOU - CRAIG AND DONNA

In August 2019, Craig Dobney joined Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church as the probationer minister. Little did he know at that time, it was going to turn out a very different experience from the one he was expecting. For the last 15 months, Craig has served alongside me in this parish during what has been exceptional times. It is interesting to note that Craig's probationary period was in two parts: six months prior to the COVID lockdown and then 9 months throughout the COVID pandemic. During this time, he and Donna have been an integral part of our church family. Personally, it has felt as if they have been here a lot longer (in a good way of course!).

I learned very early on to have total confidence in Craig's abilities. Whatever he takes on he does so to a very high standard. His care and attention in the preparation of public worship has been appreciated by many of us. His integrity shines through all of the time and displays a genuine Christ-like humility. Craig will be a wonderful caring minister who will bring much joy to his congregation. It has been a delight and privilege to be his supervisor during this last year and I shall miss Craig and Donna both greatly!



The time has come for him to move on to his own parish, which is so exciting for Craig and Donna. Craig leaves officially at the end of October. Sunday 1st November will be Craig's last service at Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church and on that day, I would like to present him with a gift from the congregation.

If you would like to make a contribution towards this, please send a cheque or make a BACS payment to the church. Please contact Alison Jolliffe (Treasurer, Tel: 07809 293045) for more details on how you can do this. Alternatively, please put it in a sealed envelope marked 'Craig Dobney' and hand it in to the office. The deadline for gifts to be received is **Friday 30 October 2020**. Thank you.

Allan Wilson

CRAIG DOBNEY: A JOURNEY TO MINISTRY - PART 4

By Craig Dobney

A number of small children no older than seven ran towards the car. Some tried to reach up to wash the windows; others carried trays of sweets and small plastic items that they were desperately trying to sell. We were stopped at a set of traffic lights in Khartoum, Sudan on our way to a meeting to complete a lucrative aviation training deal with a government organisation. That was THE moment, when I look back and think about it, that I finally gave in to God's call. How could I continue in the life I was leading ignoring the suffering all around? It was time for a change of heart and a review on the path my life was to take.

I had left the RAF seven years earlier and was now a Senior Manager at Air Service Training based at Perth College. With the memory of Sudan fresh in my mind I decided to go to the Church of Scotland discernment conference in Glasgow. Whilst there, I felt a strong pull towards applying to become a full-time minister of Word and Sacrament. Thankfully, Donna agreed to support me in this radical change in our lives and the long process towards ministry officially began.

Once my application was received, Presbytery organised my discernment placement with the good folk of Craigie and Moncreiffe. This was to be a steep learning curve but such a rewarding one. I went from being unable to put a decent prayer together to leading a full service for the very first time in the space of a couple of months. That first service was like having an out of body experience: the Holy Spirit seemed to take charge from the moment of initial preparation to the end of the service of worship. It's amazing the strength and the guidance that God provides in these situations. It really is such a privilege to share together in worship knowing and experiencing God's presence alongside us.

Once the discernment placement was over it was time to take a leap of faith. I handed in my notice at work and applied to New College at the University of Edinburgh. At this point I had no idea if the Church of Scotland would accept me or not but time was against me and I had to ensure a University place was secured. Thankfully I passed the Church of Scotland interview process and the National Selection Conference so off I went to University for three years full-time. Alongside the academic training I carried out two part-time nine month placements at Letham St Marks and Kinnoull, again learning so much about the demands and the joys of full-time ministry. In between these placements I was fortunate enough to enjoy a ten week full time summer placement at a PCUSA church in Florida. I successfully graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in May last year and so began my wonderful Probationary placement with you all here at Dunbarney and Forgandenny.



Both Donna and I have had such a rewarding time with you. Allan has been such a fantastic supervisor and I am certainly far better prepared now than I was when I arrived. The COVID-19 crisis has certainly been challenging but the level of community engagement and mutual support continues to inspire. As Donna and I prepare for the next phase of our journey, we just want to say thank you. Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown us, thank you for the friendships which have grown, thank you for helping us through the good times and the difficult times and thank you for continuing to support us both through prayer and our continued friendship.

On Sunday 4th October I preached as Sole Nominee at Comrie and Dundurn, and I'm delighted to tell you that, eight days later, I was voted in as their new minister. Please know that much of that success is down to each one of you and if you're ever passing by please drop in and see us. We are only at the other end of the Earn from you all and will continue to send our love and prayers down river. May God bless each and every one of you.

DUNBARNEY AND FORGANDENNY CHURCH: MINISTRY AND MISSION UPDATE

WORSHIP continues in Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church in a variety of ways. Every Sunday through Facebook Live, Sunday worship is streamed live from Dunbarney Church. This service is recorded and is distributed to the housebound. A CD is distributed to



Moncreiffe Care Home for use with their residents. The recording is used in the Phone Broadcast Service. Simply phone the local number **[01738] 239392** and set it on loudspeaker mode (if available) and enjoy listening to the service. The service is normally uploaded at about 12 noon on a Sunday and is available throughout the week.

As you will know by now, we have opened the buildings once again for people to gather to worship. It has been lovely to conduct worship in the presence of others again - even if at this stage the number attending is low. At the moment we are reflecting on what factors work and what don't. There is more information about this in a separate article.



As in the previous editions of *Parish Voice*, some material has been provided at the end of this newsletter. It consists of scripture lessons and hymns for each Sunday. These readings are taken from the lectionary and should correlate with those that are used in BBC Radio Sunday services such as BBC Radio Scotland (New Every Sunday at 7.30am) and BBC Radio 4 (Sunday Worship at 8.10am). For your interest in this edition of *Parish Voice*, we have also included suggested prayer points for each day of the week.

A few week's ago, we had another online Messy Church. This time we looked at the story of Noah and how Noah listened to and trusted God and faithfully set about building the ark. This session made us ask questions such as, "In which direction is God asking us to go?" "Are we being faithful to God's call?" God will give us what we need - especially His courage and strength. If you're interested, the video that was used is still available on You Tube (https://youtu.be/HI5Qz_xrql) . It was filmed in and around Bridge of Earn and features two very familiar people!

Finally, there are strict rules on what constitutes an Act of Worship and what is considered an 'Event.' We are looking at how we can mark Remembrance Sunday (and Armistice Day) and Christmas. It is likely this will require more planning and we are unable to share the final details. Please look out for posts in our Facebook page and website. Up to date information will be shared during the 'church notices' section of our Sunday service which you can always access through the Phone Broadcast Service (01738 239392). Information will be placed in our noticeboards and finally please remember you can always phone the church office on a Friday morning and speak to Anne Rodgie for any information.



PASTORAL: In Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church we are blessed by the people of the Pastoral Care Group who regularly support folk who, for whatever reason, are being challenged by life issues. They are there to listen and provide a companion on the journey through difficult times and compliment the work of our elders.

In particular, I am grateful to those who make weekly or fortnightly phone calls. Regularly, over 100 members of our congregation (who filled in a pink slip) enjoy a chat with a member of the pastoral care team and this helps enormously in connecting one with one another. Being able to enjoy a short time of fellowship is making such a difference to all our church family so we record our thanks to all who are involved in any way in providing this support.



Please keep me informed of any person who would benefit from support at this difficult time or of any pastoral situation which requires input. If you feel you might benefit from being added to our list of those being telephoned please contact me (**01738 812463**) or the Pastoral Coordinator (**07739 311630**) and leave a message and we will get back in touch.

FELLOWSHIP: Tuesday morning Zoom Coffee and Chat meetings continue to take place at 11.00am, when we chat about anything and everything for about 40 mins. If you do not have Zoom you can still be part of this by phoning in and when prompted, entering two PIN numbers. If you would like to be part of this, please give the Church Office a call (01738 812463).

Very shortly, we want to try something new using Zoom. I would like to start a fellowship group that might take the form of a book discussion evening. The meeting, I suggest, should last for about 1 hour. A book title would be suggested and read and we could have a discussion about it. I think this could make for a

very interesting and enjoyable evening, especially in the dark nights. If this appeals to you, then let me know.

FINANCE: As a church, we would like to thank you for all your support and understanding over this difficult period. As we are all aware, the work of the Church continues despite the fact that we are unable to meet and worship, or receive weekly offerings, in the normal way at present. Please remember giving financially to the church and consider all the ways this can be done - through giving by Standing Order, using the Donorbox on our website or through a cheque sent directly to the treasurer.



With Christmas approaching, please remember to sign up to "Easy Fundraising" and "Smile Amazon" and a percentage of the sale will be directed to Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church at no extra cost to you and will benefit the church. Thank you for keeping the vital work of the Church in your thoughts and prayers. Please contact Alison Jolliffe (Treasurer, Tel: 07809 293045) for more details.

CHURCH BUILDINGS - NOW OPEN AGAIN

As you know, church buildings are now allowed to open for worship, communal prayer, weddings and funeral services. Our church buildings opened for worship again on Wednesday 30th September. The form of the worship on a Wednesday lasts around 30 minutes and consists of prayer, music, a time for reflection and a blessing.

To allow for physical distancing, the capacity of our buildings is greatly reduced and you will need to sit as individuals or in family groups/bubbles. Places require to be booked so as to avoid the risk of being turned away at the door. If you wish to attend please phone 01738 812463 on a Friday between 9.00 – 12.00noon and state the service you wish to attend.

As outlined in a recent letter here are some of the changes you will see as we welcome you back to our buildings:

- There may be a socially distanced queue to enter our buildings. Bring an umbrella if it is rainy.
- You will need to sign in and give your name and telephone number for the Test and Protect system. One contact per household will be sufficient and your details will be kept securely in our safe for 28 days and then destroyed.
- Hand sanitiser will be available and should be used at all entry and exit points.
- You will need to wear a face covering.
- Volunteers will be available to provide guidance and assistance and they will show you where to sit. You should alert a volunteer if you feel ill.
- Physical distancing of 2 metres will need to be adhered to and there will be signage to help us move safely around our buildings.
- Seating will be clearly indicated for use and furniture should not be moved.
- We are not permitted to sing and pew cushions and hymn books will be removed. Bring your own cushion if you wish.
- A toilet will be available, but the area will be restricted to one person at a time.

If you would like to speak to anyone about any of the points in this letter, please contact Allan Wilson (Minister) or Anne Larg (Session Clerk).

CHURCH REGISTER

FUNERALS

30/07/20 - Janet (Jan) Stoddart Stewart, aged 85 years

06/08/20 - John Cooney, aged 85 years

19/08/20 - Sydney Norton, aged 91 years

20/08/20 - Agnes (Nan) Hutcheson Durno, aged 99 years

31/08/20 - Benedict (Ben) Duncan Rees Vessey, aged 21 years

28/09/20 - Norman (Norrie) John Bannerman, aged 72 years

01/10/20 - Helen Lennox, aged 100 years

CONTINUING SUNDAY WORSHIP AT HOME - PRIVATE DEVOTIONS

Please work through the following:

- Breathe slowly and deeply.
- Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you read.
- Enjoy being in the presence of God and allow Him to speak to you.



First reading of the passage: **'Listen'**

As you read the passage listen for a word or phrase that attracts you. Allow it to arise from the passage as if it is God's word for you today. Sit in silence repeating the word or phrase in your head. Then say the word or phrase aloud.

Second reading of the passage: **'Ponder'**

As you read the passage again ask how this word or phrase speaks to your life and why it has connected with you. Ponder it carefully. Don't worry if you get distracted – it may be part of your response to offer it to God. Sit in silence and then frame a single sentence that begins to say aloud what this word or phrase says to you.

Third reading of the passage: **'Pray'**

As you read the passage for the last time ask what Christ is calling from you. What is it that you need to do or consider or relinquish or take on as a result of what God is saying to you in this word or phrase? In the silence that follows the reading pray for the grace of the Spirit to plant this word in your heart.



- Respond: Please remember to make an offering to the church. If this is not done by standing order, please consider putting your offering in an envelope or make a pledge in an envelope that you can fulfil later.
- Use one or two of the hymns suggested - sing or read aloud.
- Finish with the Grace: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen"

The scripture readings and hymns that can be used over the next few Sundays are as follows:

Date	Readings	Hymns
18.10.20	Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 96.1-9,(10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22	All my hope on God is founded Brother, let me be your servant Jesus put this song into our hearts Rock of ages
25.10.20	Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-46	Crown him with many crowns Make me a channel of your peace The King of love my shepherd is
01.11.20	Micah 3.5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13; Matthew 23.1-12	Immortal, invisible, God only wise Will you come and follow me? Your hand, O God, has guided There is a redeemer
08.11.20	Amos 5.18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13	Be still, for the presence of the Lord Make me a channel of your peace Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go O God, our help in ages past
15.11.20	Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-8,(9-11),12; Matthew 25.14-30; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11	Be thou my vision Jesus' hands were kind hands Lord, for the years, your love has kept and guided One more step along the world I go
22.11.20	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Psalm 95.1-7a; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46	Rejoice! the Lord is King All I once held dear At the name of Jesus Here is love, vast as the ocean
29.11.20	Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37	For the beauty of the earth God is working his purpose out Now the green blade rises Take my life, and let it be

06.12.20	Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15; Mark 1.1-8	Make way, make way for Christ the King Christmas is coming, the church is glad to sing Comfort, comfort now my people We have a Gospel to proclaim
13.12.20	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28	Tell out, my soul Lord of all hopefulness Of the Father's love begotten Thou didst leave thy throne You laid aside your majesty (MP, SHF, TS)
20.12.20	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); Psalm 89.1-4,19-26; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38	Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you I come with joy, a child of God No wind at the window In the bleak mid-winter The angel Gabriel from heaven came
25.12.20	Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20	Child in the manger, infant of Mary It came upon the midnight clear Love came down at Christmas O little town of Bethlehem Silent night, holy night
27.12.20	Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.22-40	Angels from the realms of glory Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy The wise may bring their learning
03.01.21	Genesis 1.1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11	God is working his purpose out I bind unto myself today Praise to the Lord, the Almighty We cannot measure how you heal
10.01.21	1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139.1-6,13-18; 1 Corinthians 6.12-20; John 1.43-51	I heard the voice of Jesus say Just as I am, without one plea My Jesus, my Saviour O breath of life

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## A CYCLE OF INTERCESSION

Prayers may include the following concerns if it is desired to pray for different topics through the week or through the seasons.

### Every day

- In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

### Sunday

- The universal Church
- Ministers and Elders and all who lead the Church
- The leaders of the nations
- The natural world and the resources of the earth
- All who are in any kind of need

### Monday

- The media and the arts
- Farming and fishing
- Commerce and industry
- Those whose work is unfulfilling, stressful or fraught with danger
- All who are unemployed

### Tuesday

- All who are sick in body, mind or spirit
- Those in the midst of famine or disaster
- Victims of abuse and violence, intolerance and prejudice

- Those who are bereaved
- All who work in the medical and healing professions

### Wednesday

- The social services
- All who work in the criminal justice system
- Victims and perpetrators of crime
- The work of aid agencies throughout the world
- Those living in poverty or under oppression

### Thursday

- Local government, community leaders
- All who provide local services
- Those who work with young or elderly people
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Emergency and rescue organizations

### Friday

- The Queen, Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament
- Those who serve in the armed forces
- Peace and justice in the world
- Those who work for reconciliation
- All whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife
- Prisoners, refugees and homeless people

### Saturday

- Our homes, families, friends and all whom we love
- Those whose time is spent caring for others
- Those who are close to death
- Those who have lost hope
- The worship of the Church

## PRAYER

*Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland*

Come, Jesus Christ, come my way; showing me your way,  
through these disorientating days, and opening my eyes to your accompanying presence.

Come, Jesus Christ, come my way; teaching me your truth,  
through these confounding days and opening my mind to your living Word.

Come Jesus Christ, come my way; revealing to me your life,  
through these bewildering days, and opening my heart to the fullness of your being.  
Amen.

### USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS



|                                  |                      |                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Parish Minister</b>           | Rev. Allan J. Wilson | 812463                         |
| <b>Probationer Minister</b>      | Craig Dobney         | 07864 366856                   |
| <b>Session Clerk</b>             | Anne Larg            | 812805                         |
| <b>Dep Session Clerk</b>         | Margaret Bell        | 815910                         |
| <b>Secretary</b>                 | Anne Rodgie          | <i>currently on furlough</i>   |
| <b>Pastoral Group</b>            | Gillian Munro        | 07739 311630                   |
| <b>Safeguarding</b>              | Steve Fulton         | 813516                         |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                 | Alison Jolliffe      | 07809 293045                   |
| <b>Sunday Service Phone Line</b> |                      | 01738-239392 (local call rate) |

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