

HOME VISITS

It's always lovely to spend time with people in their own homes but with all the demands (and corresponding expectations) of an ever-reducing ministry, it is not always possible just to call in as in days gone past. That is why we have a pastoral care group and elders in our congregation. If, however, you would like a home visit please do not hesitate to call me and we can arrange for that very soon. It would be lovely to see you. Likewise, if you are also unable to attend church and would like to have Home Communion, please do get in touch. It is very special to celebrate Communion in this way. My telephone number is 01738 812463 and email: AWilson@churchofscotland.org.uk.



Allan Wilson

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition of *Parish Voice*.

The deadline for articles for the next issue is **Sunday, 2nd July 2023**. Please send your contributions to Anne Rodgie in the Church Office with a copy to Anne Larg.

MOVING HOUSE

If you are moving house, please would you give your new address to the Church Office on 01738 812463.



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Minister	Rev. Allan J. Wilson	812211
Session Clerk	Anne Larg	812805
Dep Session Clerk	Margaret Bell	07732 375038
Secretary	Anne Rodgie	812463 (Wed & Fri - mornings only)
Pastoral Group	Christian Macdonald	07739 311630
Safeguarding	Steve Fulton	813516
Treasurer	Alison Jolliffe	07809 293045
Church Hall	Avril Fulton	07977 290268
Sunday Service Phone Line		01738-239392 (local rates apply)

Dunbarney and Forgandenny Parish Church (Church of Scotland) is a charity registered in Scotland, No SC0009638.

Parish Voice

Spring 2023



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

"When are you ever going to open a bottle of *that* wine?" I am not referring to that wonderful Friday evening moment after a long week, but to a bottle of wine (in fact two bottles) which I bought many years ago when my children were very young. We were on holiday in the south of France and I could not resist a visit to a small village that produces iconic French wines and which is known worldwide. We enjoyed walking around the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, but I was eventually drawn into one wine cellar where I agreed to buy two bottles of red wine. As soon as I agreed to this, I knew that it was going to be expensive. The bottles were wax sealed and placed carefully in its packaging. My credit card needed to be used!



These two bottles still lie unopened in the manse. And every so often, I hear these words, "when are you going to open a bottle of *that* wine?" When I bought them, I said that they would be opened either on a 21st birthday or at a wedding. These milestones have passed! I guess, I am rather concerned that after so much time, I will be desperately disappointed by what is inside.

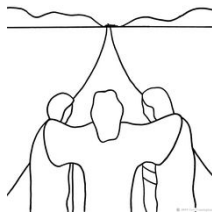


It's hard to ignore the prominence of wine in the Bible. In March we celebrated communion and despite conducting such a service using well-rehearsed words, I still find it to be powerful and special. We are also approaching Easter – the most significant time for a Christian –



and again to the wonderfully deep services of Holy Week especially Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, shared with friends from neighbouring churches.

At these services we remember that just before Jesus went to the cross, he began what's known as 'The Lord's Supper', or Holy Communion. He said that the cup of wine represented his blood poured out for us. *"Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."* Following the resurrection, Jesus walked and talked with Cleopas and another person on the road to Emmaus, explaining to them that everything that had happened. They said, *"Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."* So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him! (Luke 24:29-31). Over a glass of wine and some bread, Jesus met with them and their eyes were opened and they recognised him in a way they never had before and they were deeply moved. And the same is true today.



As we take a thimble full of wine there is something deeply enriching when we remember Jesus' love for us. We remember that God doesn't just love – God *lavishes* us with love (1 John 3:1). And this love is to change us from the inside out and we are to love others. Elsewhere we read that God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. (1 John 4: 16)

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

So back to the question, "When are you ever going to open that bottle of wine?" I think the answer might be very soon. I will never know how good it is until I have tasted it. The Psalmist said something similar. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." (Psalm 34: 8) The wine I bought might be terrible, but the wine that Jesus pours out is never

HOLY WEEK 2023

Once again, we will be sharing in Holy Week services along with friends from neighbouring churches.



Holy Wednesday (5th April) – 7.00pm in Kirk of St Brides, Abernethy
Maundy Thursday (6th April) – 7.00pm in Forteviot Church (inc. Sacrament of Holy Communion)
Good Friday (7th April) – 2.30pm in Forgandenny Church
Easter Sunday – 8.30am garden service in Dunbarney followed by breakfast in the Church Hall
 10.30am – All-age service in Dunbarney Church

MONDAY CLUB

Like many other organisations the Monday Club meetings were affected by the COVID pandemic with the last meeting of the Club having been held at the beginning of March 2020. Up until that time the Club had had a reasonable turnout each time and had enjoyed the fortnightly meetings with either interesting speakers or entertainment.

The Committee met recently to discuss the future of the Club. With regret it is considered that it is most unlikely that the Club meetings could resume given the age group of members and most of whom now depend on someone to provide transport for them. In addition the Committee members all of whom are also in the upper age bracket (their ages totalling 502 years!!) feel that they are no longer able to continue in office. Since no younger people have been coming to the meetings it is unlikely that a new Committee could be formed.

After much thought, and with regret, particularly since the Club has been going for 22 years, it was felt that the Club should be wound up and the remaining funds which amount to £565 be distributed amongst the following: - Tea @ Two; Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance; Scottish Mountain Rescue Team; Dunbarney & Forgandenny Parish Church; Dunbarney & Forgandenny Parish Church Flower Fund.

The hall is also very popular for birthday parties and celebrations, coffee mornings and fundraising events so please do get in touch if you'd like to book.

Please contact me in the first instance as there may be bookings in the pipeline that haven't made it to the hall calendar yet.

*Charges (includes use of the hall, kitchen and toilets)

Per hour - £16

Half a day- £50

Whole day- £95

Grateful thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who help to run the various clubs and groups, it's lovely to see our hall so well used.

Avril Fulton (Hall Convenor)
07977290268 or a.f.fulton@icloud.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday worship takes place every week but in alternate buildings. These services start at 10.30am with occasional services if required at 2.00pm. Live Streaming of services will continue and a recording is available on the telephone broadcast service (01738 239392). This is also a great way to hear the Church News! The dates of the services are as follows:



April 2023 02 – Forgandenny at 10.30am 09 – Easter Day 8.30am Garden @ Dunbarney 10.30am at Dunbarney 16 - Forgandenny at 10.30am 23 - Dunbarney at 10.30am 30 - Forgandenny at 10.30am	May 2023 7 - Dunbarney at 10.30am 14 - Forgandenny at 10.30am 21 - Dunbarney at 10.30am 28 - Forgandenny at 10.30am
June 2023 4 - Dunbarney at 10.30am (Communion Sunday) 11- Forgandenny at 10.30am 18 - Dunbarney at 10.30am 25 - Forgandenny at 10.30am	July 2023 2 - Dunbarney at 10.30am 9 – Forgandenny at 10.30am 16 - Dunbarney at 10.30am 23- Forgandenny at 10.30am 30 - Dunbarney at 10.30am

disappointing. This Easter, take time to receive from the Lord all that he has poured out for you and me.



As we begin the journey to Jerusalem, marking Holy Week, giving thanks for Christ's sacrifice on the Cross that first Good Friday and rejoicing on Easter Day over the empty tomb, may I wish you all the peace of knowing and serving, the risen Lord.

Every blessing to you and yours, now and always.

Your minister and friend,

Allan

CHURCH REGISTER



DEATHS: *Left this world, but not forgotten*

21/12/22 - Joan Campbell Thomson, aged 84 years

15/01/23 - Ian Rattray, aged 65 years

21/01/23 - Sylvia Rose, aged 73 years

24/01/23 - Marjory (Madge) Simpson, aged 72 years

10/02/23 - Ian Stewart Gray, aged 60 years

18/02/23 - Isabel Jean Grainger, aged 84 years

23/02/23 - Joan Elspeth McCormick, aged 88 years

25/02/23 - Nancy Crichton Robertson, aged 81 years

BAPTISMS

27/11/22 - Blair Andrew Peter Noad Whitehead in Dunbarney Church

18/12/22 - Brodie Thomas Jack Kirkwood in Forgandenny Church

13/02/23 - Molly Matilda Barclay in Dunbarney Church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Grant Funding: Our Cosy Space project has been a great success, thanks to the support of funding secured from the National Lottery Community Fund, PKC Cost of Living Community Fund and the Cameron Group Charitable Trust. This funding has enabled us to not only open up the church hall each Friday to provide a warm space with hot food and drinks available but has also allowed us to



work in collaboration with the Bridge of Earn Baby & Toddler Group. This support has meant that they have been able to offer their sessions free of charge for the first quarter of the year, and are providing warm snacks to both children and their carers at each session.

I am delighted to confirm that we have also been successful in securing funding of £13,500 from the PKC Community Investment Fund to establish our 'Big Brig Youth Project'. Among other things, this will allow us to enlist the services of a trained Youth Worker from KYTHE throughout 2023.

2022 Accounts : Full details of our annual accounts will be provided at the Stated Annual Meeting on 19th March, although I am pleased to report that we started the year in a reasonably healthy financial position, ending 2022 with a surplus of £7,224, excluding restricted Cosy Space funding and refurbishment project donations. However, this surplus was largely because we were fortunate to have received a £1,000 legacy, and our fabric expenditure was considerably lower than usual. Our general offerings were actually £1,500 less than in 2021. The 2023 budget proposed by the Finance Committee shows a deficit of -£8,183. We anticipate a tricky year ahead, with cost of living concerns and all fundraising being rightly focused on the refurbishment project. I would therefore encourage everyone to prayerfully consider their offerings at this time, remembering what a privilege and gift it is to be able to support the work of our church.

Gift Aid: The Church of Scotland recommend that all gift aid donors should check each year that you are still paying enough tax to cover your gift aid payment. The easiest way to do this is to divide what you give by 4 and check that you have paid that amount in tax. If you are unsure, please feel free to contact me in confidence and I can arrange to have this checked for you. If you are aware that you no longer qualify to make gift aid payments or you wish to become a gift aid donor, please let me know. This is a fantastic way to generate additional income for the church (25p for each £1 donated) without it costing you any extra.

CHURCH HALL 2023

We are delighted that our church hall is busy again with a variety of clubs and organisations for different age groups and interests. These are open to anyone so if you are interested in something, please get in touch and I can give you the details of who to contact.

MONDAY

Morning - Ladies Keep Fit Class 1 (for the less mobile) - 9.45 - 10.30 Spaces!

- Ladies Keep Fit Class 2 (Aerobics & Circuits) - 10.45 - 11.45 1 or 2 Spaces!

Afternoon - Men's Keep Fit Class (Aerobics & Circuits) - 3.30 - 4.30 1 or 2 Spaces!

Evening - Yoga - 7.15 - 8.45

TUESDAY

Morning - RVS Lunch Club 11-1pm

Afternoon - Carpet Bowls 2-4pm

Afternoon - Banner Group (Forgandenny Church - Laird's Loft) 2-4pm

WEDNESDAY

Monthly Soup Lunches 12-1.30 on 2nd Wed of each month Nov to May inclusive

Women's Group - 3rd Wed of the month 7.30 - 9.30 Sept to April

THURSDAY

Morning - Chatterbox for 0-3 yrs 9-11am

Afternoon - Bridge Club (beginners are welcome) 1.30 - 4pm

Evening - Earn Singers 7.30 - 9.30pm

FRIDAY

COSY SPACE FROM 10 - 4 (till end of March)

Come along for a heat or a blether, read the paper or sit and relax and enjoy tea, coffee and home baking and soup at lunchtime - all free!

Everyone welcome!

SATURDAY

Dandelion Group 10-12noon on 1st Sat of the month

SUNDAY

Fortnightly teas and coffees after the church service - an opportunity to socialise, catch up with friends and make new friends.

DUNBARNEY FLOWERS

A big Thank you to the delivery group who are starting up again after three years due to Covid. Thanks also to the new people who have come on board. My grateful thanks also to all who arrange every week.



If you wish to donate money or flowers to decorate the Church I would be glad to discuss this with you. Either email me on hjackson10@aol.com or give me a phone on 07751577771. It may be in remembrance of a loved one or just to beautify the sanctuary. There are many dates free during the year.

As I mentioned last time I would be grateful to take back any of the green dishes given out each week with the flowers. This would help save us having to purchase so many. I can arrange to pick them up or just leave in the Church Hall.

If you are interested in helping to arrange flowers, please get in touch.

Finally a big thank you to the Woman's group for once again decorating the hall and Church for Christmas.

Helen Jackson, Flower Convener.

TENNIS CLUB

Opening Day Sunday 23rd April 2-4 pm

Come along, meet the committee and play some fun tennis. You can hear what the club can offer you and your family and find out how to join. You'll be surprised how little it can cost for a full years tennis!

See our FB page or club notice board for further information.



Barbara Moffatt

COST OF LIVING ROADSHOW

This event is to signpost our tenants, and members of the community to cost of living and energy advice.

There will be people on hand who will share with you what provisions are available within your local area to promote wellbeing and social inclusion.

The event is on Thursday 13th April 10:00 – 14:00 at Servite House 2 Muirmont Place, Kintillo, Bridge of Earn. PH2 9RP

As always, thank you all for your continued support of everything we do as a church family.

Alison Jolliffe, Treasurer
07809 293045

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus said: *"I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst; he who comes to me I will not cast out. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied."*

The Minister and Kirk Session invites you
to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on

Sunday 4th June 2023

Dunbarney Church at 10.30am.



Note: Communion elements of grape-juice and gluten-free bread will be provided at this Communion Service

Please contact your elder or Allan Wilson (01738 812463 or AWilson@churchofscotland.org.uk) if you would like to receive home communion.

THE BIBLE COURSE

Over eight weeks on a Thursday evening for one hour via Zoom, about 20 people from across the Lower Earn Churches have been discussing and learning how key events, books and characters in the Bible all fit together.



The Bible Society produced, *The Bible Course* and it is designed to give people the 'big picture' of the Bible: Instead of focussing intensively on a few verses or even a single book, takes people through the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. It aims to show them the arc of its narrative and how the different parts inter-relate. It really exceeded all my expectations. The course divides the Bible into eight sessions:

- Introducing the Bible
- Creation & Covenant

- Exodus & Promised Land
- Judges & Kings
- Exile & Prophets
- Jesus & the Gospels
- Acts & the Church
- Revelation & Review

The course is based around a high-quality video presentation by Dr Andrew Ollerton, who apparently developed it originally to help people in Cornwall new to the Christian faith. The timeline of the Bible that he had created really helped people put the different parts together and understand the genres of literature we find in the Bible.



The films can be downloaded free from the Bible Society's website after you register but the booklets must be ordered by post.

THE PRESBYTERY OF PERTH

The Presbytery was formed on 1st January 2023 and provides support to Church of Scotland churches in the former Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld, Perth & Kinross and Stirling.



The new Presbytery Clerk is the Rev Dr John Ferguson who was Minister at Peterculter Parish Church since 1999 and was also the Presbytery Clerk of Aberdeen and Shetland. The Presbytery Offices have relocated and now are in the King James VI Business Centre at Friarton. Our Presbytery Elders are Steve Fulton and Alison Hunter.

Pray that the new Presbytery will gel well and that it will support, equip and encourage local churches.

FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF PERTH

Dear fellow member,

The new presbytery starts at a time when many are wearied with the pandemic and wondering about the future with climate change, war in Ukraine, rising prices, etc.



Kiltwalk: Given the huge success of Kiltwalk last year, Christian Aid is again promoting it as a Christian Aid fundraiser. Whilst the generous 50% top up on fundraising has been taken away, it's still a fun and easy way for churches to do something different and fun! Our nearest Kiltwalk is in Dundee on 20th August.



Christain Aid Week Quiz This year's paper quiz is Flowers and Plants'. There will be copies of the quiz in the churches in exchange for a donation.

There will be the usual envelopes in the churches during the month of May which you can fill and please gift aid it if applicable. This year Christian Aid is focusing on our partners work in Malawi.

I have decided to retire from being the organiser of Christian Aid for Dunbarney and Forgandenny. Thank you to all the faithful volunteers who took part in the door-to-door collections for many years also to the ladies who helped me count and bank the money. Things have moved on since I began a few years ago and you can now donate by e-envelope or JustGiving for virtual fundraising! It is time for me to give over to a younger person who understands these new methods! Thank you.

Pat Paterson

BRIG WALKERS

The group was started almost two years ago, with the aim of providing a forum for people who wanted some company on a walk. Apart from ad hoc walks, we have a regular walk at 12.30pm on a



Thursday. This starts from the car park opposite The Institute. These walks are open to anyone who fancies coming along. They are well attended, and everyone is very friendly and welcoming.

If you want to come along, just turn up. If you want to know where we are going or would like to ask others if they want to do an ad hoc walk, please go to the Brig Walkers Facebook page. If you want more info, please contact Sandra on 07723 757565

Anyone interested in the future and direction of church in our local area is most welcome to come along.

Anne Larg.

01738 812805 or e.anne.larg@gmail.com

THE EARN SINGERS

We are putting the final touches to the preparations for their Annual Spring Concert on Friday, April 21st at 7.30pm in Dunbarney Parish Church - with their new conductor Anne Holland and accompanist, Margaret Sikora. The singers are delighted to give their first full concert since 2019. The programme contains their customary wide range of music from Rutter and Elgar, The Beatles, folk songs and, to honour his 75th birthday, some Andrew Lloyd Webber favourites. Hopefully there will be something for everyone! Additionally, the choir are delighted to welcome Kenneth Maciver as guest soloist. Kenneth is known to many and it is wonderful that Kenneth can join the Earn Singers in their concert.

Tickets for the concert are £10 (children free) and can be obtained from the singers or at the door on the night of the concert. Included in the price is our wonderful supper in the hall afterwards.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 14 - 20 May 2023

We acknowledge receipt of donation made via BACS payment on behalf of Dunbarney & Forgandenny Parish Church. Thank you for your generous donation of £98 to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal! Your donation will have a real impact on our global neighbours and we're extremely grateful for your support.

We are already working with partners to provide winter kits to people seeking shelter. These kits include plastic sheeting, mattresses, blankets, and heating materials.

Every prayer, every gift, and every action brings hope to people hit by disaster. By joining, you are helping people in need rebuild their lives. We truly cannot thank you enough. Especially over this past year, when we've all experienced the rising cost of living and you've still responded generously.

Michael Mosselmans, Head of Humanitarian, Christian Aid.

In the midst of all the uncertainties, we affirm the lasting truth, secure hope and dynamic relevance of "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever".

It is not a case of "Why don't they?" but "Why don't we? Let us..." for all Christians are in the front-line representing Jesus.



Our Five Marks of Mission

The first of the *Five Marks of Mission* - from which all others logically follow - is to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom. So, what follows is a summary of the Good News all Christians have to share entitled, 'God's Invitation' (see below). This was Commissioned as a user-friendly expression of the Christian faith and authorised by the 1992 General Assembly.

We deal with an active God, operational in Creation and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. He has promised to be at work in and through the lives of all Christians. As we move towards Easter, what a great dimension for our thinking and dynamic for our living: security, purpose, hope and power in and through Jesus!

Isn't that an exciting thought with which head up towards Easter in a new Presbytery with a fresh vision!

Prayerful good wishes, Mission Action Committee

GOD'S INVITATION

God made the world and all its creatures with people made in His image.

Invitation

By breaking His laws people have broken contact with God and damaged His good world.

This we see and sense in the world and in ourselves.

The Bible tells us the Good News that God still loves us and has shown His love uniquely in His Son, Jesus Christ. He lived among us and died on the cross to save us from our sin. But God raised Him from the dead!

In His love, this living Jesus invites us to turn from our sins and enter by faith into a restored relationship with God Who gives true life before and beyond death.

Then with the power of the Holy Spirit remaking us like Jesus we - with all Christians - worship God, enjoy His Friendship and are available for Him to use in showing and sharing His love, justice and peace locally and globally until Jesus returns!

In Jesus' name we gladly share with you God's message for all people –
“**You matter to God**” and invite you to accept His invitation.

REFURBISHMENT PROJECT UPDATE MARCH 2023

Although as a group we have been pushing on with refining the detail design and supporting documents, we have been held up due to Presbytery approval delays. Sadly our (post-Easter 2023) start date for the site work has been postponed, as it's still not clear when we can actually go ahead.

On the positive side, it means there now won't be any disruption to services over the spring and summer! Also it gives us a little more time to investigate alternative uses for the current furniture, especially the pews which are very long and will need to be cut up for removal. It's important that we end up with a bright, comfortable, flexible and welcoming space, so we are also giving further thought to the options for floorcovering and decor. The architect's drawings have now been updated in the noticeboard in the Church Hall, to show the latest agreed plan for the sanctuary, vestibule area and kitchen. If you have any questions I will be pleased to answer them (or find someone who can!).

George Bell

A CENTENARY

The present Dunbarney Church building was built in 1787 to accommodate up to 650 persons. It was just over one hundred years old when the Rev. John Sinclair Clark was appointed minister in May

WEDNESDAY SOUP LUNCHES

Soup Lunches are held on the second Wednesday of each month in Dunbarney Church Hall at 12 noon. The cost is £5 and includes soup, bread, a cup of tea or coffee and some home baking...and time to relax and have a chat. Anybody is welcome. If you would like to come along but need transport, then please contact Colin.



CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

As the weather gets a bit warmer and you feel you would like to get out and about in Bridge of Earn or Perth then please get in touch with Anne Larg to organise a ride out on the trishaw...it is free.....we do the pedalling, you get to enjoy our beautiful local area. There is more information on the church website and on the noticeboard in Dunbarney Hall.

ECO CHURCH RECYCLING

Ink cartridges, batteries, stamps, books, items for Starter Packs all can be left in receptacles in Dunbarney Hall. There are boxes for the Food Bank in both churches and blister pill packs can be dropped at Danscott or Superdrug. Soft plastics can be placed in the receptacle at the COOP or supermarkets in Perth.

The bins in the kitchen are all labelled, and hall users are encouraged to empty them into the appropriate bins outside the hall after each event.

HALL CUPBOARDS

The cupboards in Dunbarney Hall are currently being cleared out so if you think there may be something of yours that has been left there then please get in touch with Avril, Charlene or Anne Larg asap before we recycle it!

LOWER EARN CHURCHES TOGETHER AFTERNOON TEA

Elders and others interested from all the LECT churches from Abernethy all the way along the valley to Dunning have been invited to an afternoon tea in Dunbarney Church Hall on Sunday 26th March from 2 – 3.30pm.

A relaxed and informal get-to-know-you afternoon, put some names to faces, have a blether and enjoy some home baking.

together on a regular basis. They will also receive a cheque for £750.

The Women's Group worked hard to raise this amount of money but we could not have done it without your support and generosity - sincere thanks to all who supported our fundraiser!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the hard working committee - all these meetings and fundraisers don't just happen!

Each year Scone and St Martin's Guild invite us to send a team to their annual quiz night and this year our brilliant team came first!! Well done Anne Larg, Anne Rodgie, Sheena Halcrow and Elizabeth Dalgetty!



Our final event of this session is a **Celebration Lunch on Saturday 22nd April – 12 for 12.15pm in memory of Esther Stenhouse**, co-founder of the Women's Group.

The lunch will be in the church hall and will be similar to a Soup n Sweet lunch with a slightly different format.

NB Tickets need to be reserved - there will be no charge but those who wish can make a donation on the day to Esther's favourite charity (to be confirmed). You are all welcome to come whether you knew Esther or not but please reserve your tickets ASAP!! (Entry by ticket only!)

Please remember, everyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings. We are a very friendly and welcoming group and there's always time to have a blether along with tea, coffee and biscuits. £2 per meeting.

Avril Fulton (Chair)

VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU

As always, a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and their talents at Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church in any way.

I hope you enjoyed a good blether and get together as we celebrated and thanked you all in Dunbarney Hall on Saturday 11th March.

1893. A step to moderising the church came in 1910 when Aberdalgie and Dunbarney Churches received gifts of American Organs. The minister looked to make further changes but that was delayed by the impact of the First World War and its aftermath.

It was the Pullar family at Dunbarney House who were to assist greatly in Clark's ambition to modernise the church building. The original pulpit was on the middle of the long south wall with porches at both east and west ends and galleries on three sides facing the pulpit. After undergoing extensive works over seven months the church was reopened on Sunday 6th May 1923. The interior renovation was completed by removing the east porch and gallery to create a chancel and moving the pulpit to the chancel thus aligning the church to east/west. It was through the generosity of Mr & Mrs Laurence Pullar of Dunbarney that these extensive alterations were funded. The opening service was taken by the Rev. Dr. Martin, ex-Moderator of the CofS who had preached there as a young licentiate forty years earlier. He commented that it was gratifying that the fine work had been executed by local tradesmen.

Every Sunday sitting in the sanctuary we are reminded of that major work by the beautifully carved Communion Table with the date 1923 in bold letters facing the congregation.

Who was the craftsman who produced the beautiful oak table and the oak wall screens of the chancel?

In all probability he was the local master joiner William Whittet (1880 – 1966) who lived at Laburnum Cottage, Back Street, Bridge of Earn. Later he made the large lectern in 1940 and the font twelve years further on. The Rev T. Stewart Thomsom who was minister of Dunbarney from 1948 to 1958 knew that much of the woodwork in the church had been carved by the village carpenter, Willie Wittet, whose family had been in the village for three hundred years or so and whose ancestor, Andrew Wittet, had made the box to hold the two communion cups in 1693. He asked him to make a chair to



Communion Table at Dunbarney Church

stand behind the Communion Table, which Willie did, carving a beautiful burning bush on its back. When Tom commented that none of the congregation would see it, Willie replied, " Ah but, Minister, God will see it!"



Carving on back of Minister's chair

In reviewing the past, We can contemplate on the ambitions and frustrations which each generation experiences. With yet another 100 years service in Dunbarney Church building, the Congregation now look to modernise the sanctuary and just as war and the effect of a world pandemic of influenza frustrated the previous major refurbishment we see mirrored the all too similar external effects causing delay.

In due course however we shall achieve our goal and hopefully be able to commence the modernisation in this Centenary year.

Jack Blair

ANOTHER CENTENARY

When researching the 1923 renovation of our church building I turned to the AK Bell library records of the Perthshire Advertiser. Immediately it became obvious that the main topic of news was the start of national broadcasting by the BBC. John Reith, a 33-year-old Scottish engineer, had been appointed General Manager of the BBC at the end of 1922. The new company was due to start on Monday January 1st, 1923.

Archibald Fleming, minister of St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London, delivered a New Year's Eve address by wireless from the London Broadcasting Station.

From castle to cottage it was now possible to listen to opera and classical music or latest news bulletins at your own fireside albeit the "wireless" apparatus was bulky and valve sets fairly expensive.

W. B. McCallum Optician, Electrical and Photographic Store, 8 Scott Street. Perth was quick to see the commercial opportunities and promoted listening demonstrations and advertised various models for sale or build your own wireless kits.

An article "Wireless Explained" appeared in February in the PA.

WALKING WITH A PRAYER IN MIND

I suspect by the time you are reading this, the labyrinth in the church garden will be a sea of yellow. Certainly the daffodils are making an appearance as I write. It really doesn't take long to walk around the labyrinth. However, unless you choose to step off the path, you have to keep going all the way in, and all the way back again. Because of this, the path is a helpful aid to taking time out from being busy.

This short traditional Gaelic prayer works well as a meditation whilst walking, so there will be a laminated copy of it at the start of the labyrinth for the next few weeks. Why not give it a go? Or try using the prayer as you take a wander round the garden, park or elsewhere.

*Bless to us, O God,
The earth beneath our feet.
Bless to us, O God,
The path whereon we go.
Bless to us, O God,
The people whom we meet.*

Kirsty Jackson

DUNBARNEY & FORGANDENNY WOMEN'S GROUP

We've had a very varied and interesting programme this last year, something for everyone, ranging from a Sri Lankan Curry Cooking demonstration by Tay Larder to another very popular concert by Perth Rock Choir.

We managed to raise the magnificent sum of £1350 for our two chosen charities - The Katie McKerracher Trust and STAR Siblings Reunited. We decided to round that up to £1500 so that we can give each charity £750.

We had Moira McKerracher as our speaker last month telling us all about the Trust set up to help support the families of children with an incurable brain tumour and the very emotional journey that the family of Katie McKerracher had in just a year.

In the middle of March, we will welcome Karen from STAR who will tell us about the work they do and the opportunities and activities they provide for children, separated from their siblings, to meet

On a different note, we have been working behind the scenes with KYTHE (Kinross-shire Youth Enterprise) in the hope of setting up something for the older (P7 - high school age) children in the village. With some frantic form filling behind the scenes for the existing volunteers for this project, we have 4 dates in the diary for the initial offering: 26th April, 3rd May, 10th May & 17th May approx 6pm - 8pm. The plan is for an informal drop-in session, with food made available (likely the ever popular hotdogs or similar!). Areas within the hall will offer a space for chatting, a few musical instruments, gaming corner and some board/card type games, possibly craft options - but all fairly relaxed. Hopefully we will be able to get some ideas for the future from the youth that attend as well. These sessions will be supported by the KYTHE team as well as volunteers from the church. Again if anyone is interested in helping out, do get in touch. None of this would be possible without the efforts of Alison, our treasurer, in getting the funding to support these projects. Please pray for both these ventures which are a real demonstration of the church supporting and getting involved with the local community. You can contact me on heidifreeguard@gmail.com (or wagglehill@aol.com) for the DVD evenings. Peter is the team lead for the Youth evening and he can be contacted on peter@kythe.org.uk



CHATTERBOX



We are continuing to build up Chatterbox after the disruption caused by COVID. Every Thursday morning during school term time, parents/carers and pre-school children come along for a couple of hours. Everyone receives a warm welcome and there is a great atmosphere in the hall with lots of chat and play. The success of Chatterbox is thanks to the Granny and Auntie helpers who come along and set out the toys, play with the children, chat to parents and very importantly – make the toast! The door couldn't open without their invaluable help. Thank you so much. New volunteers are always welcome. Could that be you? We are now looking forward to warmer days when we will be able to get outside and play in our lovely church garden.

Karen Wilson

"Listening-in" immediately caught on with newspaper photographs of enthusiasts in groups sitting around bulky panels with large megaphone horns, and some with headphones.

Demonstrations were held in several villages and seeing, the possibilities of in-car entertainment motor showrooms joined in. In early March, Scottish broadcasting began from an attic in Glasgow. A Wireless Concert was given at Perth Infirmary in late March 1923 and soon afterwards the soldiers recovering in Kilgraston Hospital were entertained by a similar concert. Also at this time Jeanfield Social Club held a Listening-In and St Stephen's U.F. Church held a wireless concert in their hall in King Street. The PA commented that wireless telephony was becoming one of the most popular means of entertainment, and that in Perth there were many enthusiasts.

Not all were happy with this public "listening-in", for the Licensing Court disapproved of this innovation for an Abernethy inn!

There is no doubting the impact of the radio on our lives since then.

I could not fail to notice that the other well reported news items of the PA of 1923 were the numbers of concerts given by local choral, operatic and entertainment groups based and supported in almost every village of that time. Many of these too, if at the weekend, were followed by late night dances. We can listen easily to the radio on our own but perhaps society has lost some of the joy of participating or sharing in the experience of local entertainment gatherings.

Jack Blair

COMMUNITY COSY SPACES

The winter has been made all the more enjoyable by meeting up at our local Community Cosy Space in Dunbarney Church Hall. It has indeed been a warm and cosy place each Friday between 10am-4pm. Many cups of tea and coffee have been served, many many bowls of homemade soup enjoyed and loads and loads of tasty home baking consumed. Who would have anticipated that it's not just vegetables that go into soup, so many fruits and Haggis too, absolutely delicious! It has all been made possible through the generosity of our many volunteers, 7 people each week, who have offered a warm welcome, provided soup and or baking and served everyone so willingly. Financially we have been supported by the National Lottery, Perth & Kinross Council and the Cameron Group

Charitable Trust. The winter space continues to run until 31st March.

If you have enjoyed coming along or have just heard about it or recently started to attend, don't despair, we will be continuing for a shorter session starting after Easter on Friday 14th April between 10-12 midday. You will be welcomed with a big smile, a cup of tea or coffee and some home baking.

So come along to the Spring meet up and keep the warm community glow going.

Margaret Bell

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee have been busy planning some Spring Activities. Here are some dates for your diary. The Social Committee invite everyone who helps out in any way in Dunbarney and Forgandenny Parish Church to a Volunteer Thank You - Coffee, Cake and Bletchers on Saturday 11th March from 10am to 11.30 in Dunbarney Church Hall. We appreciate all that you do be it baking, making soup, arranging and delivering flowers or helping out with the many activities in the church. We hope you will manage along on the day.

On Saturday 25th March we are having an Early Spring Walk. We will meet at Dunbarney Church Hall at 2pm. For those of you who do not feel able to walk, you are welcome to stay behind in the garden or in the hall if it is chilly. There will be refreshments served after the walk and plenty of bletcher.

We plan to have a Christian Aid fundraising Quiz Night in May so start brushing up on your general knowledge now. A date has not been confirmed yet but look out for information soon. In the mean time if you have any good ideas for Social Activities please speak to either Wilma, Christian, Elizabeth, Alison or Susan. We would really appreciate your thoughts.

Wilma McCullough

BRIDGE OF EARN RVS LUNCH CLUB

We meet in the church hall every Tuesday during school term time for a lovely two course meal provided by PKC. at a low cost.

The service's main goal is to provide a hot meal and friendship for local people who live alone. People from Forgandenny are also

welcome but due to demand we are unable currently to provide transport.

There is no waiting list at present but anyone wishing to attend must book in advance, for more details call Sheila on 07746228931

TEA @TWO

Meets on the 1st FRIDAY of the month in the lounge of Caledonia Sheltered Housing Complex between 2 and 4 pm. Our aim is to



support older people in the community our volunteers have a wide range of knowledge and experience if help is required but mostly we are there to share tea and cakes and friendship. We organise a variety of activities music, games, quizzes and social events as well as talks from other organisations. No need to book just come along all welcome.

Sheila Stewart

BRIDGE OF EARN GALA

Bridge of Earn Gala is on Saturday 17th June and Dunbarney and Forgandenny Church will have a stall and gazebo at the event. Please come along and say hello and if you can offer an hour of your time to help man the stall we would be most grateful. Please get in touch with Anne Larg, Allan Wilson or Anne Rodgie in the church office.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

It seems an age since we were offering activities for children in the village, but we are delighted to announce that we are restarting the DVD evenings for younger children with dates of 17th March and 19th May already in the diary. These were very well attended (pre COVID) and the kids enjoy a relaxed (and often noisy) evening, lounging around on blankets and cushions, chatting to pals and having popcorn, hotdogs and fizzy drinks. Occasionally they even watch the film! If anyone wants to get involved then please let me know, we never turn down helpers, ear plugs are optional! Thanks to those who have already volunteered as these evenings could not go ahead without you! We are optimistic of a good turnout again - certainly there have been lots of positive comments on facebook ahead of the event.