

NO.168

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

GRAPEVINE



DUNDEE WEST CHURCH

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CONTENTS

Page 3	Pastoral Letter	Gordon Sharp
Page 4	Harvest	Bill Young/Elizabeth Blair
Page 5	The Guild	Elizabeth Blair
Page 6	The Gaelic Choir	Elizabeth Blair
	Girls' Brigade 90 th Birthday	Val Ewan
Page 7	Address from Café Sunday	Alison James
Page 8	Continued	
Page 9	Continued	
Page 10	Rotas	
Page 11	Coffee Morning/Remembrance Sunday	
Page 12	Mary Anderson	
Page 13	Girls Brigade	Val Ewan
Page 14	Prayer from Café Sunday	Alison James
Page 15	Why Jesus	Wilf Lakie
Page 16	What is Christianity	Wilf Lakie
Page 17	Harvest Hymn	Bill Young
Page 18	Quizzical Corner	
	A Seasonal Riddle	Contributed
Page 19	Calendar Continued	
	Missing Book	
Page 20	Calendar	

CONVERSATIONS AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

This is an update of times and dates : **Progressive Christianity meetings** - are the last Monday of every month (*not December*), in the Friendship Hall at 7.30pm. The focus is on a book by John Newell that assists us in deepening our understanding of faith within the present day. **Finding Faith discussions** - are every Thursday (*not over the Christmas and New Year weeks*), also in the Friendship Hall from 4.00pm - 5.30pm. The focus is on Brian McLaren's book - "*We Make the Road by Walking*". This takes us through biblical stories to expand our understanding of faith and belief. **Soul-Space practices** - are the first and third Monday of every month, again in the Friendship hall at 7.30pm. This includes wellness practices, meditation and conversation to deepen inner resilience and capacity to live well.

PASTORAL LETTER

A week or so ago I took a trip underneath the upper hall. With some assistance I brought up some of the war memorials from other churches that make up the history of Dundee West. Our archive is a splendid historical resource, but I hadn't realised that the basement contained some significant memorials of those who served and those who died. I'll arrange that they be put in the Friendship hall for Remembrance Sunday - after they've been dusted! The number of names on these memorials from the great war is staggering. The West End was a place of high density living where many, many people were church members. *Two things at least can be taken from these lists: -*

One, the Great War led to a horrendous loss of life in atrocious circumstances and for reasons that to me are obscure. I recently learned that the German Kaiser was permitted to go into exile and strangely died under German rule in occupied Holland during the Second World War. There was no charge for war crimes as there would be today!

Two, this loss of life and the mistakes in leadership meant that the role played by ordinary men in both war as well as industrial progress could not be denied. In addition, women too had played their part, so there would be no going back once the crucial role and plight of ordinary people was recognised.

Both my grandfather's served in the Great War, both conscripted later in the war due to their age. My grandfathers were born in 1869 and 1878. That's only three generations over about 150 years thus far! How much the world has changed, how much the world has seen!

Yet, many of the stories from 100 years ago will seem very familiar to us. Stories of families, of sacrifice, of struggle, of hope. Whilst the world has changed dramatically and in many ways for the better, the stories are the same and in some cases worse. Into the stories of lives, good news is needed as much as ever. Good news that justice and peace are not just possible, but they are already here and present - to be made real through faith. Good news that life comes from death and that forgiveness is the order of the day. Good news that sharing and healing are what happens when prejudices, fears and differences between people are set aside.

GORDON

THE RECENT HARVEST SERVICE

Thanks to the few who were responsible for decorating the Communion area of the Sanctuary with a beautiful display of flowers and fruits of the earth and not forgetting the willing members who were involved in their distribution at the conclusion of the congregational meal in the Upper Hall following morning worship.

During the morning service we sang the well-known harvest hymns, with the additional contribution of our brass section, so well-known to us in the persons of Jonathon and David!

Poems and readings reminded us of the seasons in our land from seed-time to harvest and the work of those who plough and scatter the good seed on the land, which is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.

At times we tend to try too hard to increase food production with the use of chemical additives, in many instances spoiling God's incredible environment.

Such a thought came to mind as I was reading a poem written by the former Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, who warns us of such materials which in the long run may work against us as we seek to improve our agricultural yields!

HARVEST

What a beautiful display of fruit, vegetables and flowers! It was such a delight to come into the church on the Sunday morning and see the Sanctuary so colourfully and tastefully decorated. Many thanks to the team who did so well, not forgetting the musical input from the choir and the trumpeters. It truly was a meaningful service. Floral displays were given to home is our parish and fruit and vegetables to the support groups of the Salvation Army and the Cyrenians.

THE GUILD

As usual the Guild is trying to maintain a varied and active programme. Twelve members of the Ukulele Band, Discovery Ukes, provided the entertainment for the opening meeting which set a lovely, happy note for the new session. The next topic was Sam Riddell speaking about his trip to Malawi and the tremendous work going on in that country through the link with Westgate Medical Centre. Gordon Sharp spoke about the Church in the Modern Day. It is always good to have a reminder of the role the church plays in society and how the reformed church had developed since the 16th Century.

Coming up we have Barbara Crawford speaking about St Margaret of Scotland on 6 November, and Peter Donald on The Sailors' Society on 20 November. Both should also be very interesting to others outwith the Guild. Remember anyone can drop in of any evening.

The Soup and Pudding Sunday on 7 October was a sweet treat, full of calories but delicious. Many thanks to Anne Wilson who always manages to produce the large pots of hot and tasty soup, and to all who contributed the puddings. There were not so many people staying for lunch that day but we still raised £210. It is not just about fund raising. The social aspect of these occasions is every bit as important and I think it fulfilled the role.

Our next event will be the Autumn Coffee Morning on 10 November. We are always indebted to members and friends who support our work, and I hope that you will put that date in your diary. Tickets are now on sale. The Hall will be open on the evening before for donations for the Cake & Candy, Gift, Book, Tombola and Raffle stalls. At the end of November the Guild Committee will be allocating to the church and charities donations from the monies raised throughout 2018. We hope, therefore, that we can make this event especially successful.

Guild week for this year falls 18-25 November. Members of the Guild will be leading worship that day. We always seem to be asking for your support, but it would be encouraging to have a good congregation that day.

THE GAELIC CHOIR

We are blessed in Dundee West with some many members with musical talents they are willing to share with our congregation. 14 October was no exception. Frances Menter-Mackay brought the Dundee Gaelic Choir to our church with the programme they were to perform at the Mod in Dunoon. It was absolutely wonderful. The overhead screen was used whereby we could see both the Gaelic words and the English translation side by side. This was a great help and definitely enhanced our enjoyment. The two soloists and the psalm with the presenter and response were so moving. The concert had a good support, although not so many from our own congregation. If Frances brings her choir again, I would strongly recommend you come along if you can. You do not have to understand Gaelic to appreciate the music.

90TH BIRTHDAY

10th Dundee Girls' Brigade celebrates its 90th birthday this year. The company began in 1928 in McCheyne church.

When Roseangle Ryehill church and St Peters McCheyne church came together to become Dundee West church we were delighted the company was able to continue and became 10th Dundee West company.

On Sunday 25th November we will celebrate this fantastic birthday during our annual Enrolment service. We welcome you to join us for a special celebration service at 11am. Not giving anything away there are some special things happening during the service. Ex members, leaders, family and friends have been invited however as we are no longer permitted to hold on to names etc of ex members we may have omitted contacting someone. If you know someone who was a member please mention this celebration to them.

Afterwards we invite you to join us for soup lunch and birthday cake in the church hall. All are welcome!

ALISON'S ADDRESS ON CAFÉ SUNDAY (21/10/18)

The service this morning is about communication.

The following quote from Yasmin Mogahed, a young Muslim woman who graduated in psychology and is now a celebrated author sums up communication for me:-

“There are some who could hear you speak a thousand words and still not understand you. And there are others who will understand without you even speaking a single word”

I have studied communication over many years and in many different forms, beginning over 27 years ago when my two older girls were just a baby and a toddler, I learnt sign language! It wasn't a choice – I needed to have channels of communication to speak to my children. At first learning sign language was quite easy, Rachel was too young to sign back to me or follow direction and Rebecca was only using basic sign (she was attending a deaf playgroup where she was signing), things like toilet, biscuit, juice, bath, bed to name but a few. I was soon to find out how much information a young brain can absorb and I was trying to stay one step ahead but Rebecca was always asking 'what's that or who is that' so I have to up my game. In all honesty, although I have done qualification in sign language (which is now very rusty) most of my signing was taught to me by my young daughters, a lack of hearing was never a barrier to communication in our family. Rachel picked up signing very naturally as we signed and spoke everything at home. Also, while the children were very young I did several Open University modules on the pre-school child which challenged me and showed me that I was passionate about communicating, a passion that is still as strong today.

I would like to share my personal story with you all....

As a young woman, married to my first husband, we were successful professionals, both with demanding but rewarding jobs, owned our own home and enjoyed travelling but the thing that was missing was a family. Eventually, having undergone many tests we were referred for IVF, which was still fairly much in its infancy. I couldn't allow myself to become excited, I was apprehensive and very nervous. All the initial tests were completed and I was given injections to boost egg production it was very gruelling. The day arrived that I was to go into hospital to have the eggs harvested and as I sat in the waiting room having completed all the formalities, I watched other couples all at differing stages of their IVF journey. I couldn't hear their voices but could read their body language – the elation, the sadness, the apprehension, the fear, the longing.

My name was called but rather than being shown into the treatment room I was taken into a consulting room where my consultant and a clinical nurse were waiting for me. They told me that the procedure would not be going ahead – in that moment I was desolate, my body had failed me again. I looked up and saw both the medical practitioners smiling and their posture was very relaxed, and I thought to myself WHY, why would they look so happy only seconds after imparting such awful news. Then they announced it couldn't go ahead as I was already pregnant. It took a while to sink in but I was jubilant, I hadn't needed IVF.

Their words and actions were out of sync, such is communication. Following a very easy pregnancy and birth I got on with the most wonderful and important job of all, being a mother. Of course, like any job, it was not all plain sailing. Rebecca was a beautiful baby and very sociable but very quiet, she hardly ever cried but watched me constantly. By the time she was 9 months it was obvious there was a problem so I took her along to our GP for initial testing then to Glasgow for further testing which showed she had bi-lateral neuro sensory disorder – she was profoundly deaf. This news was very upsetting but she was still the same little girl who I fiercely loved and wanted to protect.

I prayed for guidance, to be shown how to help, and God listened. At just over a year-old Rebecca was fitted with her first hearing aids and a lady named Alison was introduced to us, she was (and still is) a specialist speech therapist for deaf children but she was also a Christian. Alison would listen, really listen, and as well as helping Rebecca she gave me the guidance I needed. She taught me to ready body language along with sign language and speech – a powerful combination of tools.

When Rachel, my second daughter was born I had the tools to see very early that she was also deaf. This time it didn't upset me, my girls would have each other and gain strength from each other. In time they developed their own language which even excluded me and the rest of the family, they sometimes still use it today!

Alison, who was not a close friend, was working with both Rebecca and Rachel confided to me that as a child she had found life very tough and that she had always felt left out and a bit different to her family. The reason being was she was hearing, the only hearing person in 5 generations, ALL her family, including her siblings were deaf. She told me her father had prayed "Why us, what have we done to deserve this" which is what my husband said about our girls being deaf.

A couple of years later I attended a deaf Christian conference in Glasgow along with Alison and some of her family. It was a 3 day event and around 500 people attended of which only about 70 were hearing, I was one of them. The deaf Christian communities around the world had come together in praise, we sang, we prayed, people were healed and we ate meals together. The meal times I remember with such tenderness (not because of the food). Seeing so many nationalities signing, you could see the different languages and accents just as it is in the spoken world, but sitting in communal halls, speaking across rooms EVERYONE was understood. There are no secrets in the deaf world!

Language was not a barrier

Communication in its finest form.

OFFICE BEARERS ON DUTY

Sunday 11 Nov

Mrs L Ross

J Tough

Mrs C Sim

Sunday 2 Dec

D Orrock

W Lakie

Mrs C Cross

Sunday 23 Dec

Mrs E Blair

Mrs A Almond

Mrs P Turner

Sunday 18 Nov`

Miss F Maclachlan

R Robertson

Miss E Will

Sunday 9 Dec

J Wilson

Mrs J Goodall

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 30 Dec

Mrs S Maclachlan

Mrs P Black

Sunday 25 Nov

N McGill

Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 16 Dec

Miss C Maclachlan

Mrs L Sharp

Mrs M Milne

Sunday 6 Jan

Mrs L Ross

J Tough

Mrs C Sim

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sunday 11 Nov

Mrs A Almond

Sunday 18 Nov

Church Flowers

Sunday 25 Nov

Mrs M Frew

Sunday 2 Dec

Mrs S Cant

Sunday 9 Dec

Mrs C Cross

Sunday 16 Dec

Misses F & E Will

Sunday 23 Dec

Miss J Dorward & Mrs E Blair

Sunday 30 Dec

Church Flowers

Sunday 6 Jan

Miss F Sturrock & Mrs I Anderson

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sunday 11 Nov

Mrs J Hutton

Sunday 18 Nov

Mrs J Goodall

Sunday 25 Nov

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 2 Dec

Mrs D Taylor

Sunday 9 Dec

Mrs E Blair

Sunday 16 Dec

Mr M Revey

Sunday 23 Dec

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 30 Dec

Mrs A Almond

Sunday 6 Jan

Mrs J Hutton

**Dundee West Guild
AUTUMN COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 10 November
10am-12noon**



**Home baking Arts/Crafts Gifts Books Raffle/Tombola
Tickets Adults - £3 : Children £1**

**Dundee West Church
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Sunday 11 November
10.50am**



A service of reflection, prayer, praise and music



***What shall we pray for those who died, those on
whose death our lives relied? Silenced by war but not
denied, God give them peace***

MARY ANDERSON



Thank you for all the gifts, cards and kind wishes I received for my 90th Birthday, they were very much appreciated. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with friends and family during the Afternoon Tea Party, at which over £500 was donated for Alzheimer Scotland. This will help fund help and support for sufferers and their carers, and is most gratefully received.

I am sorry that I am unable to write to everyone personally, but hope to see you all soon.

Mary

THE GIRLS ' BRIGADE

We are very pleased to report numbers attending have increased quite a bit. One of the leaders was invited to speak about the Girls' Brigade to girls at a local primary school. Another primary school handed out recruitment leaflets. Both were fruitful in increasing our numbers. Initially it was thought to have all age groups do badgework together, however as a result of the increase in numbers the girls will divide into age groups. The topic this year is Trolls and is proving very popular and enjoyable for all. Activities have included making troll food, temporary hair colouring, watching a DVD, playing troll games and making crafts.

The girls also enjoyed visiting local allotments at the start of session, learning about plants and harvesting some plants.

The leaders have some exciting things planned for the girls in the coming weeks. This includes a Go Green Eco party, a Not So Spookey Halloween party and a Wee Sleep Out. Some girls and leaders will sleep out in the lower hall overnight as part of the Sleep in the Park event. The Wee Sleep is for youth groups who want to take part in supporting ending homelessness in Scotland. I'm not sure how much sleep there will be that night though! Also planned in May 2019 is a camp for Juniors and Brigaders.

We look forward to our annual enrolment service when we will be celebrating the 90th birthday of the 10th Dundee company.

Grapevine readers may be interested to read an article about the Girls' Brigade written by our National Director - Caroline Goodfellow. This is web link address-

Read and share the good news about GB Scotland in the Times Education Supplement today as it focuses on Year of the Young People - <https://spark.adobe.com/page/VY9mbmiKR07zR/>

Lots of up to date news about the company can be seen on our facebook page 10th Dundee Girls Brigade.

PRAYER ~ Sunday 21 October

Lord God, you blessed the disciples with the power to spread God's love throughout the world.

Give us the power to spread your word through our own unique gifts and through the channels of communication.

Make us willing to receive your word as it enters our daily lives.

Bless all who use their talents to spread your word. Guide those who send the message and those who receive it, so all may come to know your truth and be renewed by your love.

May your Holy Spirit help each of us to respond to each other in love, grace and kindness.

May the tone in our voices represent the respect we have to each other.

We pray for patience, understanding and wisdom as we communicate with each other.

Lord, make us channels of your peace

Where there is shouting, let us practice listening

Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust

Where there is hostility, let us bring respect

Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth

This we ask in Jesus name. Amen

REGISTER

DEATHS

During the last two months we have lost to our membership

Mrs Greta Sears

Miss Pat Orr

Mr David Murray

We extend our prayers and sympathy to their families and friends.

WHY JESUS

He satisfies our hunger for meaning and purpose in life.

At some point everyone asks the question, “What am I doing on earth” or “What is the point to life”. As Albert Camus once said “man cannot live without meaning” only in a relationship with our creator do we find the true meaning and purpose of our lives.

If we are honest we would have to admit that we all do things that we know are wrong sometimes. We do things of which we are deeply ashamed. More than that there is a self-centredness about our lives which spoils them Jesus said “What comes out of you is what makes you unclean”. Our greatest need, in fact is forgiveness.

Jesus is the most remarkable man who ever lived. He is the centrepiece of our civilisation. After all Jesus was and is the son of God. Some people think he is just a good religious teacher. However, that suggestion does not fit with the facts. I believe there is not one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus. Does God force his way into our lives. You need to accept his gift and invite him to come and live within you by his spirit.

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. Please forgive me. Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you Lord Jesus.

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY

During MY time growing up in the County town of Angus – Forfar I was encouraged to join the Scout Movement – a Cub Scout, a Scout and a Rover Scout and later Assistant Scout Master of 2nd Forfar/23rd Angus, which was closely attached to Lawson Memorial Church. At that time the minister, the Rev Henry Cummings, was very interested in the Group and he made the Scouts very welcome. He talked to them on several interesting religious topics and one of them was Christianity.

Christianity is first and foremost about relationships rather than rules. It is about a person rather than philosophy. It is about the most important relationship of all our relationships with God who made us. Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to love God. The second is to love our neighbour. So, it is also about relationships with other people. This makes me think why do we need Him! You and I were created to live in a relationship with God. Until we find that relationship there will always be something missing in our lives. As a result we are often aware of a gap.

People try to fill the emptiness in various ways. Some try to fill the gap with money, but that does not satisfy. Others try Drugs or excess alcohol or sexual promiscuity.

Even the closest human relationships wonderful though they are, does not in themselves satisfy the emptiness deep inside. Nothing will fill the gap except the relationship with God for which we were made.

In the New Testament, the reason for this emptiness is that men and women have turned their backs on God.

Jesus is the only one who can satisfy our deepest hunger because he is the one who makes it possible for our relationships with God to be restored.

Why should we bother about Christianity? The simple answer is because it is true. If Christianity is not true we are wasting our time. If it is true then it must be of vital importance to every human being.

HARVEST HYMN

We spray the fields and scatter
The poison on the ground
So that no wicked wild flowers
Upon our farm be found.
We like whatever helps us
To line our purse with pence;
The twenty- four hour broiler-house
And neat electric fence.

*All concrete sheds around us
And Jaguars in the yard,
The telly lounge and deep- freeze
Are ours from working hard.*

We fire the fields for harvest,
The hedges swell the flame,
The oak trees and the cottages
From which our fathers came.
We give no compensation,
The earth is ours today,
And if we lose on arable,
Then bungalows will pay.

All concrete sheds.....etc.

QUIZZICAL CORNER

Let's have a section of the magazine where we can bring snippets of information, quotations, puzzles, etc. Here is a sample for this issue: Quotations from Andrew Carnegie –

- No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit for doing it.
- There is little success where there is little laughter.
 - The man who dies rich, dies disgraced.

A SEASONAL RIDDLE

My first is in **merry** and also in **mirth**
My second's in **child** and also in **birth**
My third is in **sherry** but never in **wine**
My fourth is in **toe** but never in **line**
My fifth is in **look** and also in **leap**
My sixth is in **sea** and also in **deep**
My seventh's in **toss** and also in **turn**
My eighth is in **school** but never in **learn**
My last is in **year** and also in **week**
And if you see this, you may hold up your cheek!

WEEKDAYS

Thursday	8 Nov	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Saturday	10 Nov	: 10-12noon:	Guild Coffee Morning
Thursday	15 Nov	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday	19 Nov	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	20 Nov	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild
Monday	26 Nov	: 7.30 pm :	P.C.N.
Wednesday	28 Nov	: 6-7 pm :	'Lights On'service
Thursday	29 Nov	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Saturday	1 Dec	: 11.30-1pm:	M.D.H. Soup & Pudding
Lunch			
Monday	3 Dec	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Saturday	15 Dec	: 7.30 pm :	Christmas Concert
Monday	17 Dec	: 7.30pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	8 Jan	: 7.30pm :	The Guild

MISSING BOOK

In the last Grapevine, Marion Milne made a plea for the return of the book about the history of St Peter's McCheyne church and life which had been taken from the museum in the church. Marion put many, many hours into her research and writing which won her a gold certificate in the Discovery awards. Please, PLEASE, will you think about whether you borrowed it or gave it to an interested friend for a read? It is a record of the life of part of this congregation and a reflection of the work that Marion put into it. It would be a great pity if it was lost for ever. There is not copy available.

CALENDAR

WORSHIP

- Sunday 11 November : 10.50am : **Gordon Sharp**
Remembrance Service
Coffee after service
- Sunday 18 November : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Coffee after service
- Sunday 25 November : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Coffee after service
- Sunday 2 December : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Girls' Brigade Enrolment
Soup & Pudding after service
- Sunday 9 December : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Coffee after service
- Sunday 16 December : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Coffee after service
- Sunday 23 December : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Annual Choir Christmas Service
Coffee and Mince Pies after service
- Sunday 30 December : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp/Music & Worship**
Songs of Praise service
Coffee after service
Material for Grapevine due
- Sunday 6 January : 11.00am : **Gordon Sharp**
Coffee after service
Grapevine available

GRAPEVINE

Material, which should include all information up to and including Sunday 3 March, for the January/February issue of the Grapevine, should be with the Editorial Committee immediately after the service on Sunday 30 December for publication and uplift by the congregational visitors from Sunday 6 January.