

NO.169

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

# GRAPEVINE



## *DUNDEE WEST CHURCH*

**INTERIM MODERATOR : Rev Jack Laidlaw**

**Telephone : 01382 477458 : Email : [jacklaidlaw@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jacklaidlaw@blueyonder.co.uk)**

**LOCUM : Gordon Sharp : Telephone : 07341255354 Email : [gordonsharp264@gmail.com](mailto:gordonsharp264@gmail.com)**

**Website : [www.dundeewestchurch.org](http://www.dundeewestchurch.org)**

# CONTENTS

Page 3	Pastoral Letter	Gordon Sharp
Page 4	The Guild	Elizabeth Blair
Page 5	Continued	
	Date for your Diary	Adrian Milne
Page 6	Thought for the Day	Cora Murray
Page 7	Continued	
	Friends of Magdalen Green	Alison Cruickshank
Page 8	Thanks	Lydia Dorward
Page 9	Quiz Corner	
Page 10	Rotas	
Page 11	Continued	
	Good Thoughts	Editorial Team
Page 12	Communion	Wilf Lakie
Page 13	I am beginning .....	Wilf Lakie
Page 14	Bible Hunters	Gordon Sharp
Page 15	Continued	
Page 16	John Buchan	Bill Young
Page 17	Continued	
Page 18	Why be Christian	Mike Revey
Page 19	Calendar	
Page 20	Calendar	

## 2019

The Editorial Team wish members and friends



# PASTORAL LETTER

On the last Sunday of 2018 I reflected on the life of Dundee West. I touched initially on the Christmas Day lunch for those who are part of Making Dundee Home by using some photos from the day. We had around 36 visitors with 8 volunteers. This included a volunteer from the housing charity Shelter who did an excellent job in obtaining hostel accommodation for two individuals who were rough sleeping. We also had singing organised by Claire Bee who leads creative activity as part of people's recovery - something that fits really well with what we aim to do as part of Making Dundee Home.

Other aspects of 2018 for Dundee West were two baptisms early in the year, coffee mornings, concerts, the Guild fundraising, new girls joining both the girl's brigade and the brownies. Not to mention the excellent welcome and catering in our own Roseangle Kitchen Cafe. Dundee West is a positive presence in the community and many people engage with church led activities as well as many other activities in our building.

But, our contribution to well-being and community building are only one side of the story. When thinking of the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus on that last Sunday of the year we heard how both grew in wisdom and found favour with God and with men. The other side to a Church's story is about renewal, growing in faith - in wisdom.

Regrettably, over recent years this doesn't seem to happen through Sunday School, bible class or family. Yet, if there aren't people growing in faith - in wisdom, then the gospel of Christ itself fades as does the contribution to well-being and genuine community.

So, as I look back on 2018, I do see the Ministry of Christ active in well-being and community building, but in relation to renewal - finding faith, there is much less of an impact. It isn't that there is a social gospel and a saving gospel - there is only one gospel and only one Church. As a Church we need to look at how we increase understanding of the gospel? How we help there be a growing in faith - in wisdom? A happy new year to everyone and may 2019 bring a growing in faith and in wisdom.

*GORDON*

# THE GUILD

During the service led by the Guild for Guild week in November details of the new projects being supported by the Guild nationally were mentioned. This might be of interest to those not able to attend that day. From autumn 2018 to spring 2021 the six projects are:

## **Join Up the Dots**

A *Crossreach* project to tackle loneliness and isolation in Scotland

## **Faith in Young People**

*Whereby the Boys' Brigade* is seeking to face the challenge of being more visible as it reaches out to engage with the wider community

## **Seema's Project**

The *Free to Live Trust's* plan to build a home for abandoned street children from the red-light district of the city of Pune in India

## **Journeying Together**

a *World mission* plan to help teenage mums in Zambia build a life of promise for themselves and their children

## **A Chaplain for Our Ports**

a *Sailors' Society* project whereby their chaplains help seafarers and their families from all faiths or not, with welfare and practical support

## **Growing the Future**

the Scottish Christian Society, *Malawi Fruits*, is working to support young farmers in the North of Malawi through advice and help on irrigation and variation of crops to, hopefully, improve their income and avoid the need to leave their families and home areas to travel to the cities for work

More details can be found on the Guild noticeboard in the Upper Hall. You may not always think about it, but in your support of the Guild YOU, too, are supporting these projects and we thank you for it.

The second half of the session starts on 8 January when Rev David McLeod will be speaking about Geneva and the Reformation. This meeting is open as always, to anyone and should be good for those interested in history and, in particular, the history of the Reformed Church. Also, for historians or Egyptologists is the meeting on 22 January when Ron Scrimgeour talks of Egypt and the Tomb Raiders.

## **A DATE FOR THE DIARY**

**CONCERT BY**

**PUPILS OF ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL**

**ST ANDREWS**

**IN DUNDEE WEST CHURCH**

**ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

**ADMISSION FREE**

**THIS WILL BE GOOD!**



**Hosted by Tayside Organists' Society**

# **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

(Guild Week Service)

When thinking about my thought for today, three headings popped into my mind:

**The Journey the Guild are about to follow**

**The terrible wars that are causing most unbelievable cruelty on mankind especially the children**

**The old and Christmas is coming at some speed.**

Growing up in the 40's and 50's in Dundee religion for me was Catholic or Protestant and not much more.

I took my first long journey in 1965 to South West Iran which changed my life forever. I arrived in Bander Masher on 18 December, a small original village, bazaar and a Mosque. Adjacent was the Iranian Oil Company facilities, Tug Services housing, built by BP originally in 1940's and added to since. We have a Clinic, Store, Iranian school; 1 class expatriate school; 2 clubs; no church.

I didn't feel like Christmas, no church service; nothing in the house to show it, nothing in the store. I was told not to worry about Christmas day by my neighbour as we would be on George's tug for Christmas lunch.

No mum at the end of a phone and 4 weeks before my youngest daughter Amanda died aged 5 months from Cystic Fibrosis. I was not in a very good place.

Christmas morning, just like any at home but different, presents from family at home and Santa's to Jacqui and 1 for the house boy brought out with us on course. Fun with a 2-year-old. So much to thank God for. Being together as a family.

Tug bus, greeting, hugs and kisses, I began to feel excited.

Indian crew welcome, a wonderful lunch; best Christmas meal for a long time, atmosphere of a very happy family.

Home after lunch, rest and then Golf Club Children's party.

Decorations, tree lights, there were games and competitions for 18 months to 18 years old, food and drink. Bells rang outside, and the children running about.

The Iranian Port Fire service were in a huge tender in bright yellow clothes, and Santa on top. Excitement, a bit much for a 2-year-old. Every child in the room had a gift from Santa, finishing off the day with everyone singing Carols.

Did I enjoy my first Iranian Christmas – Yes, wonderful. The most amazing part for me, I am living in a Muslim Country, went for lunch on an Iranian Tug for a meal, made and served by Hindus, who embraced the day. A Christian Celebration of the birth of Christ, the beginning of Christianity. What a day.

I have never forgotten that Christmas. I lived in Iran for 11 years and I saw relationships crumble at government level, but to the end my relationship with the people never changed.

I wish it were possible for the world to live as we did that Christmas so long ago.

## **FRIENDS OF MAGDALEN GREEN**

We are having a Scottish Soup and Pudding in the upper hall on Saturday 26 January 11-1pm – Tickets £5.

We are currently fundraising to buy a dog water fountain to be put on Magdalen Green.

The dog fountain is made by Walter McFarlane who made and restored our lovely bandstand! The fountain will be dedicated to Par Orr and Kay McFarlane, founding members of Friends of Magdalen Green and West Fest.

Friends of Magdalen Green wish to thank all at Dundee West Church for all their support.

# THANKS

I am writing to thank everyone who has done so much for me over the last months, giving me lifts to appointments, phoning, visiting, sending cards. Many a time you have lifted my spirits when I have been feeling a little low, perhaps after a difficult night with aching legs.

I have decided to send a donation to Womankind - £250. This charity works worldwide so you will be helping many more people. Many women suffer rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation.

Womankind helps women build social networks and take action individually and collectively against violence.

I intend to put a thank you notice inside Colin Lowes the chemist on Perth Road.

I hope to be back in church and to P.C.N. meetings, also West End Community Council and Friends of Magdalen Green.

My best wishes to all in our Church and the World for Peace and Reconciliation in 2019. If only mankind would make it a priority to care for one another.



# QUIZ CORNER

A “colourful” Quiz to brighten up the grey days of January. All the answers to this quiz involve colours and world geography. No prize, just for fun!

1. Hills of Dakota .....
2. Maori name for New Zealand .....
3. 6<sup>th</sup> longest river in the world  
.....
4. A state in South Africa .....
5. Islands off Newfoundland .....
6. The former name of Ghana .....
7. Colour of the flag of Libya before 2011 change  
.....
8. Sea parted by Moses .....
9. .... Anchor, town in Somerset .....
- 10 “Colour” of Argentina .....

The following answers are all types of **PASTA**. Alternative letters have been missed out.

1. S\_A\_H\_T\_I
2. F\_R\_A\_L\_
3. P\_N\_E
4. L\_N\_E\_T\_
5. C\_S\_R\_C\_E
6. R\_G\_T\_N\_
7. L\_S\_G\_E
8. F\_S\_L\_I
9. V\_R\_I\_E\_L\_N\_
10. P\_P\_A\_D\_L\_E
11. T\_G\_I\_T\_L\_E
12. T\_R\_E\_L\_N\_

## OFFICE-BEARERS ON DUTY

### Sunday 13 Jan

Miss F Maclachlan

Miss E Will

R Robertson

### Sunday 3 Feb

J Wilson

Mrs J Goodall

Mrs C Beattie

### Sunday 20 Jan

N McGill

Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

### Sunday 10 Feb

Miss C Maclachlan

Mrs L Sharp

Mrs M Milne

### Sunday 27 Jan

D Orrock

W Lakie

Mrs C Cross

### Sunday 17 Feb

Mrs E Blair

Mrs A Almond

Mrs P Turner

### Sunday 24 Feb

Mrs S Maclachlan

Mrs P Black

### Sunday 3 Mar

Mrs L Ross

J Tough

Mrs C Sim

## CHURCH FLOWERS

**The Flower Team would like to thank all for the lovely Flowers which have beautified the Sanctuary throughout the year.**

**Our grateful thanks also go to all who so kindly deliver the flowers to members.**

**Sunday 13 Jan** Mrs C Lakie

**Sunday 20 Jan** Mrs D McGill

**Sunday 27 Jan** Mrs C Webb

**Sunday 3 Feb** Church Flowers

**Sunday 10 Feb** Mrs C Cross

**Sunday 17 Feb** Mr B Key

**Sunday 24 Feb** Miss M McHattie

**Sunday 3 Mar** Mrs C Sim

## FLOWER DELIVERY

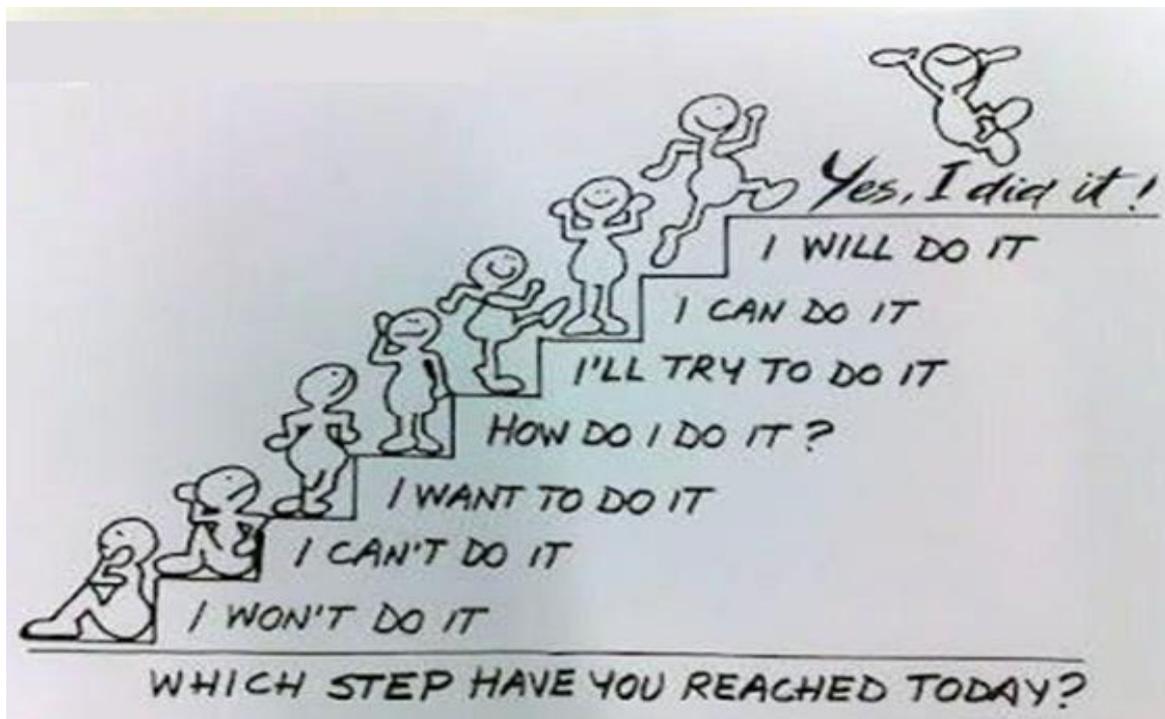
**Sunday 13 Jan** Mrs J Goodall  
**Sunday 20 Jan** Miss W Patterson  
**Sunday 27 Jan** Mrs D Taylor  
**Sunday 3 Feb** Mrs E Blair  
**Sunday 10 Feb** Mr M Revey  
**Sunday 17 Feb** Mrs C Beattie  
**Sunday 24 Feb** Mrs A Almond  
**Sunday 3 Mar** Mrs J Hutton

## GOOD THOUGHTS FOR 2019

We forget that waking up each day is the first thing we should be grateful for.

For every person you forgive, you heal a wound of your own.

In a world where you can be anything, be KIND



# COMMUNION

After receiving my Eldership in FORFAR it was my desire to understand the purpose and importance of Communion. After research I have managed to understand what Communion was all about.

- 1) What is Communion? The last meal on Earth with his disciples symbolised JESUS' death on the cross to pay the penalty for our son. The apostle PAUL explained that Christians were to re-enact this simple meal to remember what JESUS had done for them.
- 2) Why is it important? In a Communion service we sing songs of Worship, PRAY, we pass round the bread and wine and share them with each other. It is a very simple service, but it is full of meaning and importance. It invites us to celebrate the past as we remember how much our salvation cost. AS we prepare and share in the Communion Service we are reminded of our forgiveness. Every time we celebrate Communion we reminded of God's amazing Grace to sinful and rebellious people. Communion helps to keep our focus on God and gives us the opportunity to examine our own lives. In participating in Communion, we are obeying Jesus' command "Do this in remembrance of me"
- 3) Why should we participate in Communion? Everyone who has experienced the new life which Jesus gives to those who trust in him by Faith as their personal LORD AND SAVIOUR.
- 4) Why should I be thinking during Communion? Reflect on the enormity of God's love for all at Communion. Consider members the extent of his sacrifice on the cross for all of us. Let your mind be filled with gladness because of HIS GIFT OF LOVE. Consider too that he is alive waiting to hear your expressions of Love to Him. The Book of Acts suggests the early Christians celebrated COMMUNION DAILY in the beginning and probably on a weekly basis later on.

Thank you all and blessings for the future.

# **I AM BECOMING MORE AND MORE WORRIED ABOUT OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

**WHY!!!!**

**Recently we have seen.**

- 1) Crown Prosecution Service Lawyer claimed that publicly quoting the King James Bible in Modern Britain should be considered to be ABUSIVE and is a CRIMINAL matter. That happened in 2017.**
- 2) A student who Fled persecution in Africa was thrown off a University Social Work Course in the U.K. because of Facebook Post affirming view of MARRIAGE – Christian view happened in 2016.**
- 3) A Government proposal to the registration of and inspection of SUNDAY SCHOOLS this was abolished in the UK two centuries ago. This happened in 2015.**
- 4) A prominent Northern Ireland Pastor was persecuted for a Sermon published online in which he strongly rejected the ISLAMIC DOCTRINE that Jesus was a Moslem . That happened in 2015.**
- 5) In 2015 a Christian working for BRITISH AIRWAYS had to appeal to the European Court of HUMAN RIGHTS to win a six year LEGAL BATTLE after being placed on Unpaid Leave for wearing a small Cross round her neck at Work.**

# **BIBLE HUNTERS**

An excellent article in the December 2018 edition of the National Geographic gives a detailed picture of how archaeologists and others, who may be less professional, are searching for ancient bible texts. Some are searching for more dead sea scrolls, which are already acknowledged as one of the biggest archaeological finds of the 20th century.

In looking at the story of the Bible and by that, I mean it's reliability as an accurate record may give more credence to the message that it conveys. For instance, there are remnants of 230 biblical manuscripts from the dead sea scrolls, which includes one nearly complete copy of the Book of Isaiah. Its content is virtually identical to another copy of Isaiah dated almost a thousand years later. It means that there seems less corruption with copying manuscripts over centuries than might have been expected.

There were also two Scottish twin sisters who in 1892 crossed the Egyptian desert on camelback to find manuscripts that they'd been tipped off were stored in St. Catherine's monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai. They first found a biography of female saints dated 778 AD. But, one of the sisters noted that underneath this biography was a much earlier version of the gospels dated to the 400s. This is now recognised as one of the oldest versions of the gospels every discovered.

One less than appealing note to this article is a version of the bible for negro slaves. This version only included selected portions of the Old and New Testaments. References to freedom and escape from slavery were omitted, while those texts encouraging obedience and submission were highlighted. It goes to show that one of the most grotesque copies of the bible happened in much more recent times and not when people were laboriously writing on parchment.

The article reveals the long history of searching for and finding more ancient biblical texts. The bible we all know is a collection of books written over at least one thousand years, but we sometimes forget that our bibles are translations of copies of copies and there exist no original texts of any of the bible books. It's important therefore, to search for versions of bible books that are as near to the original as possible.

For our Finding Faith discussions, we are using biblical readings set out in Brian McLaren's book: ***"We Make the Road by Walking"***. We are applying their steps to our approach and these are:

- *Firstly, we apply a scientific approach to what we read. This means quite simply that we apply our rational minds to both the story and how the story came into being.*
- *Secondly, we apply a creative approach to what we read. This means we treat what we read as literature, which includes thinking why it was written and to whom it was written.*
- *Thirdly, we embrace what we read with humility so that we might hear what the ancient text is saying to ourselves.*

This seems an excellent way to approach the bible and it draws on the archaeological work undertaken over many, many decades as well as the work of biblical criticism.

# **JOHN BUCHAN – LORD TWEEDSMUIR**

Author of ‘The Thirty-nine Steps,’ ‘Greenmantle’ and ‘Mr. Steadfast.’ – as important a historian as he was a novelist!

Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor –General of Canada, was even better known as John Buchan, the author. Novelist, lawyer, publisher, historian, soldier, biographer, politician and proconsul, he had a career as various as it was distinguished.

What, then were the influences during his home upbringing which resulted in his being revered throughout the English-speaking world?

John Buchan was born on 26 August, 1875 at Perth, where his father, the Rev John was a minister. His mother, a daughter of a Peebles farmer, had been brought up in the Free Church, in the tradition of the Disruption, and was a strong churchwoman who proved the ideal wife during her husband’s varied charges. Both mother and father had a strong love of literature instilled into their family.

In such an environment John Buchan and his brothers and sisters were raised. Of them, William, a brilliant young Indian Civil Servant was to die on his first home leave; Alastair, a subaltern in the Royal Scots Fusiliers was killed in action at Arras in 1917, and a daughter, Anna, became well-known as the novelist, “O. Douglas.”

In the course of Buchan Snr. responding to a call to a new charge, the family set up house in Glasgow, at which university the young John was to attend classes. He was to prove an outstanding student, and it was no surprise when he went up to Brasenose College, where he continued a course of studies, resulting in a First in the degree known as “Literae Humaniores,” or “Greats.”

Future honours would be showered on this remarkable son of Scotland from institutions, academic and political. Robust in health, John, during his Glasgow University, would rise of a morning at six o'clock and greet the dawn as he walked the four miles to his place of study! Together with the benefits of a happy, yet structured upbringing in a religious centred home, where talents were developed, the story of John Buchan remained a shining example for many future young Scottish lads and lasses.

In the next publication of Grapevine, we recall the life of a well-known Scottish lady!



## WHY BE CHRISTIAN?

Recently I discovered on the bookshelves in the upper hall a remarkable book entitled ‘The Heart of Christianity’ by Marcus J Borg. Others will have read it but it was new to me. I found it illuminating, compelling and very much in tune with progressive Christianity. The following is a concise example of the writer’s philosophy.

*“Why be Christian? The Christian tradition is familiar; it is ‘home’ for me. I was born into it and grew up in it. Its stories, language, music and ethos are familiar. It nurtured me even as I have had to unlearn some of what I was taught.*

*In adulthood, I have grown to appreciate its extraordinary richness: its antiquity and wisdom; the beauty of its language and music and forms of worship; its passion for compassion and justice; the sheer goodness of its most remarkable lives. Its worship nourishes me; its hymns move me; its scriptures and theology engage my imagination and thought; its practices shape me.*

*For me, it mediates the good, the true and the beautiful; and through all of these, it mediates the sacred. It is for me a sacrament of the sacred. And it is home”.*

# CALENDAR

## WEEKDAYS

Monday	7 Jan	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	8 Jan	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild
Thursday	10 Jan	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Tuesday	15 Jan	: 7.30 pm :	Kirk Session
Thursday	17 Jan	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday	21 Jan	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	22 Jan	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild
Thursday	24 Jan	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Saturday	26 Jan	: 11am-1pm:	Friends of Magdalen Green Soup & Pudding Lunch
Monday	28 Jan	: 7.30 pm :	P.C.N.
Thursday	31 Jan	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday	4 Feb	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	5 Feb	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild
Thursday	7 Feb	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Tuesday	12 Feb	: 7.00 pm :	Guild Committee
Thursday	14 Feb	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday	18 Feb	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	19 Feb	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild
Thursday	21 Feb	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday	25 Feb	: 7.30 pm :	P.C.N.
Thursday	28 Feb	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday	4 March	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday	5 March	: 7.30 pm :	Tayside Organist Society Concert

# CALENDAR

## WORSHIP

Sunday 13 Jan	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service
Sunday 20 Jan	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service
Sunday 27 Jan	: 11.00 am :	<b>Rev Jack Laidlaw</b> <b>Communion</b> Coffee after service
Sunday 3 Feb	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service
Sunday 10 Feb	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service
Sunday 17 Feb	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service
Sunday 24 Feb	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service Material due for Grapevine
Sunday 3 March	: 11.00 am :	<b>Gordon Sharp</b> Coffee after service Grapevine available

## GRAPEVINE

**Material for the next issue of the Grapevine should be with the Editorial Team immediately after the service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February for publication and uplift by the congregational visitors from Sunday 3 March.**