

NO.171

MAY/JUNE 2019

GRAPEVINE



DUNDEE WEST CHURCH

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REGISTER

DEATH

In April, Mr Tom Brehm, elder of Dundee West Church

We extend our prayers and sympathy to his family and friends.

PASTORAL LETTER

Easter, Springtime - so good to see new life burst forth, helped by recent rains. I've planted quite a range of wild flowers to improve the diversity of the garden and already the seedlings are coming up - I can't wait to see how it all works out. That's a bit like church and faith. We plant seeds of giving, of forgiving. We water with thoughtfulness and we let what happens happen. We are not really in control, far from it. Yet, we can plant seeds of encouragement and support. Planting seeds is how we grow a garden of diversity and wonder and it's also how we grow a community of welcome and belonging. Growing things is always a balance between planning and leaving, between activity and letting go. This also applies to community.

Growing church today though is not straightforward. Faith is not seen as relevant and church can be seen as boring. The proposed Radical Action Plan going before the Assembly has a range of actions that may assist the church become more focused on its Mission as the Ministry of Christ - it's all under the banner of following Jesus and encouraging others to follow Jesus - being a disciple and making disciples.

Following Jesus is about faith and action, prayer and service, words and deeds. One of the things that Jesus does is to bring forth in us what is good, what is honest and what is courageous. We are enabled to live beyond our limitations because we connect with reality (God). We are no longer just our own ego, trying to survive, we know what resurrection means!

So, the key task is to plant seeds (words and deeds) and nurture them. Will others come to faith in Christ? That is the question. It's not one we can answer, but we can pray for a growing community of welcome and belonging to which we are committed with Christ.

GORDON

THE GUILD

I mentioned in the last *Grapevine* the plans for the AGM meeting, and what a delightful and happy evening we had to round off the session. We are so fortunate in this congregation to have such talented people who are so willing to share their time, and that evening was no exception. We had a very varied programme with Akira Oda on the flute, Mike Revey and Ron Frew on the piano, Alison Almond sharing her fund of poems and stories, and Connie Lakie singing from her repertoire. We finished off with some specially tasty refreshments. Very many thanks to everyone.

Not many extra visitors this time, which is a shame, given such a happy event. However, now that you know what you missed, maybe the next time?

Our next treat was the Soup and Pudding Lunch on the 7 April when on offer was a mouth-watering selection of soups and desserts. Along with the *Dog Breed Quiz*, we raised £260 which will go towards Guild Projects. By the way, Teresa Wallace won a box of chocolates for having the most correct answers.

Despite all that, we still have another event for our friends! On 15 June, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, we will be holding our Strawberry Fair. Tickets will be on sale shortly. Please put the date in your diary and if you would like to donate to any of the stalls, we would be more than delighted!

CHRISTIAN AID HUNGER LUNCH

Our annual Hunger Lunch will be held on Sunday, 12 May after the morning service. Rolls with jam and/or cheese and a plentiful supply of tea and coffee. Please give this your support. You will hardly get a coffee in town at the price but at £3 each this lunch is a bargain. Tickets will be available from Donald Orrock but you can pay at the door on the day. All monies raised will go to Christian Aid along with the fund raising from the Tay Bridge walk.

10 TIME'S TEN THOUSAND

They are withering away now, but this year has been a particularly spectacular display of daffodils around Dundee. Even Wordsworth would have been amazed. Aren't we lucky to live in this part of Scotland and to have such a thoughtful Parks Department and the City Council.

THE BOOKSTALL.

Fifty pounds from the sale of books has been sent to help in the work of Christian Aid, leaving a balance of twenty pounds!

This is no great sum, but a note of thanks to those who support the stall.

FRIENDS OF MAGDALEN GREEN

Friends of Magdalen Green AGM is to be held on Tuesday 21 May at 7pm in the Friendship Hall.

The Guest Speaker is Mr Roger Illsley who will give a talk on James Wright Jnr – Dundee's first industrial designer. Did you know Dundee had its own currency? Come along and hear all about it.

All Welcome ~ Free entry ~ Refreshments

SOUP AND PUDDING LUNCH

SATURDAY 25 MAY 11-1 - £5

I will be holding another Soup and Pudding lunch for my Friends who tragically lost their son, Lee, aged 27 in August 2017. This year all Money raised will be going to Art Angel. A self-funded local charity organisation. Art Angel is a unique and inspired arts project run by and for people with experience of mental health difficulties in Dundee.

Stalls ~ Tombola, Baking etc. Come along and support an amazing charity.

www.notinvainforlee.co.uk ~ website and campaign page

A DIFFERING VIEW OF JUDAS ISCARIOT.

From the Gospel of Judas.

The Gospel of Judas does not appear in the Christian Bible, but is a recognised work, translated and approved by a group of recognised theologians, and resulting from a discovery of a collection of papyrus scripts by a group of Egyptian farmers in the 1970's.

Such important discoveries were worth many thousands of pounds in the theological world and in the course of the years, passed from seller to buyer on many occasions, thus resulting in a deterioration of the originals, yet remaining of a sufficient quality for translation.

Judas is described as one of the "Twelve", who really understood his Master's teaching. According to the gospel, Judas speaks in this way, "I know who you are and where you have come from. You are from the immortal realm of Barbelo, and I am not worthy to utter the name of the One who sent you." With such words, Judas realises that Jesus is a divine being. While the other disciples are not capable of fully understanding Christ's message, it is Judas alone whom Jesus, in His own words, says, "You will excel all of them, for you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

According to the Gospel of Judas, Jesus is a saviour, not of the mortal flesh that He wears, but rather, because He is able to reveal the soul or spiritual person who is within.

In other words, the true home of Jesus is not this imperfect world below, but the divine world of light and love.

By betraying Jesus Judas helps his friend to discard His physical body and free His inner self - the divine self.

10TH DUNDEE

We began the year a little low on numbers as some of our girls moved on to “pastures new”. However after a very successful recruitment drive in the near-by primary schools we are pleased to now have 17 girls attending regularly.

This year we decided to have a focus on “Trolls” for the whole company and the girls have greatly enjoyed making many bright, colourful and glittery crafts. Not to mention edible troll treats, stress trolls and even having their hair dyed.

The Trolls movie contains many other interesting themes and we have covered: friendships, growth, celebrations and nature this year. In order to help our environment we planted some vegetables, made bees wax wraps and donated reusable clothing. In the next few weeks the girls will be adding the finishing touches to their Troll Garden, which will be on display in the church grounds for local residents to enjoy. Many of the girls also took part in the Wee Sleep Out, sleeping in the church hall overnight and raising £110 for Social Bite campaign to end homelessness.

In November we celebrated the company’s 90th birthday at a special Enrolment Service and were delighted that so many of our GB friends and family could join us. It was wonderful to see so many officers, past and present, supporting our girls and a great day was had by all.

To end the session our Explorers are heading to the National Museum of Scotland while the Juniors and Brigaders are looking forward to a weekend camp at the Jock Neish Scouting Centre in Forfar. This is the first time in many years that the company has been on camp and excitement is mounting!

After that we will all be taking a well-earned break over the summer but look forward to returning revived and refreshed for 2019-2020.

OFFICE-BEARERS ON DUTY

Sunday 12 May

N McGill

Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 2 June

Miss C Maclachlan

Mrs L Sharp

Mrs M Milne

Sunday 23 June

Mrs L Ross

J Tough

Mrs C Sim

Sunday 19 May

D Orrock

W Lakie

Mrs C Cross

Sunday 9 June

Mrs E Blair

Mrs A Almond

Mrs P Turner

Sunday 30 June

Miss F Maclachlan

Miss E Will

R Robertson

Sunday 26 May

J Wilson

Mrs J Goodall

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 16 June

Mrs S Maclachlan

Mrs P Black

Sunday 7 July

N McGill

Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sunday 12 May

Sunday 19 May

Sunday 26 May

Sunday 2 June

Sunday 9 June

Sunday 16 June

Sunday 23 June

Sunday 30 June

Sunday 7 July

Mr G Sharp

Mrs M Anderson

Mrs L Ross

Mrs A Wilson

Mrs A James

Mrs C Murray

Mrs T Wallace

Mrs J Hutton

Miss J Dorward & Mrs E Blair

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sunday 12 May

Sunday 19 May

Sunday 26 May

Sunday 2 June

Sunday 9 June

Sunday 16 June

Sunday 23 June

Sunday 30 June

Sunday 7 July

Miss W Patterson

Mrs D Taylor

Mrs E Blair

Mr M Revey

Mrs C Beattie

Mrs A Almond

Mrs J Hutton

Mrs J Goodall

Miss W Patterson

THE IMPORTANCE OF “ENCOURAGEMENT”

and the rewards it can bring.

George Gilfillan of the former School Wynd Church encouraged those in his congregation to better their lot in life by self- education and by taking part in debating societies, discussing such social problems as the poverty suffered because of poor housing conditions of the working classes of the city, not forgetting the pitiful rewards at the end of a long working week.

From such opportunities for debate emerged one, Elizabeth Campbell, one of the “Lochee Poetesses” who, with but a few months’ education brought the world of nature to the weavers and spinners of industrial Lochee.

She describes her life in the following words:

“The folks’ journey through life’s very cold,
And fortune smiled never at me;
Child, maid and wife, all the days of my life
She scowled and pointed at me.”

And yet, although the lyrics of her poetry lacked a certain polish, she could forget her wretched existence and was able to look to nature as an antidote. Here follows one of her nature poems:

The Robin in Winter

Q! It's winter, dreary winter now
The flowers and leaves are dead;
The lonesome birds are weeping all,
For ice-bound is their bread.
And to my naked hawthorn tree
The snow, a white shroud clings.
Hushed is the robin's minstrelsy,
And weary are his wings.

I love him for his shining breast,
And his rich, melodious lay
That rang so sweet through the busy streets
In the golden autumn days.
He has left the leafless forest bough
And the birch tree in the glen
To brave the smoke and clangour now
Of the city homes of men

A few words of a poorly educated and poorly paid millworker. Others would follow in her footsteps, gently encouraged by the maverick minister, George Gilfillan of Victorian Days.

There must be a lesson for us as we continue as a thriving congregation. To me, it is of a simple nature! Every encouragement must continue to be given to all those, who work here at Dundee West, small though their contribution may appear.

WINNIE THE POOH

It was reported recently in the *Courier* that a large fire had broken out in Ashdown Forest. This is said to be the inspiration for the “Hundred Acre Wood” in A A Milne’s *Winnie the Pooh* stories. It brought to mind some favourite quotations from these stories -

“When Rabbit said ‘honey or condensed milk with your bread’, Pooh was so excited that he said ‘both’, and then so as not to seem greedy, he added ‘but don’t bother about the bread, please.’”

“An ambush,” said Owl, “is a sort of surprise.” “So is a gorse bush sometimes,” said Pooh.

“Hello, Piglet,” he said. “I thought you were out.” “No,” said Piglet, “it’s you who were out.” “So it was,” said Pooh. “I knew one of us was.”

On Monday when the sun is hot, I wonder to myself a lot:

“now is it true, or is it not, that what is which and which is what.”



COMMUNION: 23 JUNE

We will have another Communion Service before the next issue of *Grapevine*. Elders already have their duty lists for the year but, as a reminder, the following are on duty that day -

Ross Paton

Bill Garland

Anne Wilson

Lynda Ross

Wilfred Lakie

Frances Sturrock

Jan Goodall

Paul Preece

Elizabeth Young

Jean Dorward

Christine Sim

Just a couple of extra reminders -

Any Elder not able to be present that day should seek to find their own replacement. However, it is helpful to let Elizabeth Blair know of any change.

Those serving from the west side of the church are responsible for the washing of the glasses after the service.

As usual, there will be an Elders' Service before the main service at 10.25 a.m. to which all Elders are invited, and encouraged, to attend.

Please be aware that on this Sunday, the Antiques Roadshow is on at the Slessor Gardens and the V&A and there might be disruption to buses and traffic coming from the East end of Dundee.

COMMUNION AT SEA

The National Trust for Scotland's final cruise in September 2018 was a great holiday. It was like being in a first-class hotel, with transport to very interesting places thrown in. But for a Church of Scotland member like me there was also Christian fellowship. Every evening the Cruise Chaplain, the Rev. Professor Andrew McGowan, conducted prayers in the bar, with the Filipino bar maid joining in singing the hymns. And all Christians of every denomination were invited to attend a communion service which was held on a Monday when we had no port of call. Over sixty came along, with people from Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Baptist and Pentecostal churches known to be present.

The service followed C of S tradition, with six passengers who had volunteered to act as elders processing to the front. We began with the crew's Christian Fellowship Choir singing two bouncy modern worship songs. They then marched off back to work – sadly they were not with us for communion.

Prof. McGowan's sermon made three points which I noted in the form of questions and answers. Q 1 – What is the gospel? A - Jesus was a real man who was crucified, died, was buried, was resurrected and appeared to many people. The Son of God. Q 2 - How do we know? A - We have the testimony of witnesses. Q 3 – What shall we do with the gospel? A - Tell others the good news.

The communion bread was served on two large pewter plates and the wine was in two deep pewter flagons. We were told that these had been used on St. Kilda. When the island was abandoned in 1930 they were given to the Church of Scotland. The National Trust for Scotland became their guardian and they were only used during the communion service on the NTS annual cruise.

Looking out at a view of nothing but sea and sky while singing “When I survey the wondrous cross”; listening to the gospel message in the lounge of a cruise ship; receiving communion with fellow believers from so many branches of the Christian faith; this was an moving spiritual experience which I will never forget.

CALENDAR

(Continued)

WEEKDAYS

Monday 6 May	: 7,30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday 7 May	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Saturday 11 May		Taybridge Cross
Tuesday 14 May	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Saturday 18 May		Vintage Fair
Monday 20 May	: 7.30 pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday 21 May	: 4-5.30pm :	Finding Faith
Monday 27 May	: 7.30 -m :	P.C.N
Tuesday 28 May	: 4-5/30pm :	Finding Faith
Tuesday 28 May	: 7.30pm :	Kirk Session
Saturday 15 June	: 10-12noon:	Guild Strawberry Fair

ANSWERS TO PASTA QUIZ

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Spaghetti | 2. Farfalle | 3. Penne |
| 4. Lancette | 5. Casarecce | 6. Rigatoni |
| 7. Lasagne | 8. Fusilli | 9. Vermicellini |
| 10. Pappardelle | 11. Tagliatelle | 12. Tortellini |

CALENDAR

WORSHIP

Sunday 12 May	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Christian Aid lunch
Sunday 19 May	: 11.00 am :	Donald Orrock & others Coffee after Service
Sunday 26 May	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after Service
Sunday 2 June	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after Service
Sunday 9 June	: 11.00 am :	Lewis Rose Coffee after Service
Sunday 16 June	: 11.00 am :	Elizabeth Blair & others Coffee after Service
Sunday 23 June	: 11.00 am :	Rev Jack Laidlaw Communion Coffee after Service
Sunday 30 June	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after Service Material for Grapevine due
Sunday 7 July	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after Service Summer Grapevine available

GRAPEVINE

Material for the Summer issue of the Grapevine should be with the Editorial Committee immediately after the service on Sunday 30 June for publication and uplift by the congregational visitors from 7 July. This should include material up to and including Sunday 1 September.