

NO.173

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

GRAPEVINE



DUNDEE WEST CHURCH

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GRAPEVINE

Material for the November/December issue of the Grapevine should be with the Editorial Team no later than Sunday 27 October for publication and uplift by the congregational visitors from Sunday 3 November. This should include information up to and including 5 January 2020.

PASTORAL LETTER

Yesterday I was in the garden to cut back a hedge and other shrubs. Unfortunately, I disturbed a bee's nest in a clump of ferns. They did seem to recover, here is hoping. The theme for the garden is wildlife so I'm kind of chuffed that bees have made a home in the garden. I plant wild flowers and other plants that are attractive to bees, so they now have both food and shelter in the garden - I'm pleased.

From the General Assembly and over the past weeks on a Sunday morning the theme is growth. I've been drawing from a book by Dr. John Pentland of Hillhurst United Church in Canada: *"Fishing Tips: How curiosity transformed a community of faith."*

What is clear when it comes to church is that belonging matters. Belonging creates a strength of attachment with each other and with place. It comes from sharing something of our lives together with the common ground being the way of Jesus. People can find belonging to church difficult because they have perceptions that churches are about having to conform. Churches can seem strange places and people can also get out of the way of belonging when life seems to get in the way.

One of the things, among quite a few, that we've taken from John Pentland's book is circles of engagement. People engage with church in different ways. There are people who engage with activities during the week like Making Dundee Home or Badminton, others who work or volunteer in the cafe and then there is the Guild, Girl's Brigade and Brownies. In some ways there has been growth of engagement, but not really on a Sunday morning. Yet, Sunday morning is our focus on the way of Jesus, it's the time that keeps us anchored in the way of giving, the way of forgiving, the way of life itself. All the activities arise because the way of Jesus, the way of life, is what we are about. I'll be exploring how we might build connections between the way of life and our circles of engagement.

GORDON

***MY STAY AT DUNDEE WEST CHURCH FROM
MARCH 2019 TO 2019-08-25
Happy Nyirongo***

Dundee West church become my second home when I arrive in March and with friendly and supportive interim minister **Gordon Sharp** and all the members of the church welcomed me with such kind heart of making indeed Dundee home for everyone. I have enjoyed my stay in Dundee one of the reasons is that Christians at Dundee West welcomed me well and with such strong interaction in the church and after church was so amazing. I have learned a number of things which I guess we don't do back home but it's time to pick up some of these good things.

If I will fail to mention **Mr. Bill Young** that will be wrong for me, he is such special grandfather and Christian he has been so supportive spiritually and morally may the good lord bless him and keep him strong.

Lastly to the whole congregation may the good Lord Jesus Christ be with you. These are my contact details , Happy Nyirongo, phone number +265881834367, email address nyirongo71@gmail.com and post address College of Medicine pvt Bag 360 Chichiri Blantyre 3 Malawi.



HARVEST SERVICE

The Harvest Service will be on Sunday, 22 September. The church will be open for decoration on Saturday morning. If you would like to help with arranging flowers or the fruit and vegetable, why don't you come along. We have all just learned as we have gone along over the years and have a great deal of fun and companionship as we work together - and there's a break for coffee and biscuits!

We start preparations just after 10 a.m. and are usually ready to accept donations of flowers, fruit and vegetables from about 10.30 until 11.30. If you grow your own or have been shopping, would you like to drop by with a gift? After the service on Sunday, all items are shared amongst the residential homes and centres locally.

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COMMUNION SERVICE - 27 OCTOBER

The Elders on duty for the October Communion are -

Ross Paton
Jean Dorward
Alison Almond
Elizabeth Blair
Sheila McLachlan
Isobel Anderson

Bill Garland
Val Ewan
Gordon Sharp
Donald Orrock
Eliza Will

THE GUILD

September sees the start of a new session for many of the Church's organisation, and the Guild is no exception.

The Annual Gathering for all Guilds in Scotland takes place on 7 September in the Caird Hall, and this year Connie and Wilfred Lakie are representing Dundee West at it.

The next day sees the start of Guild Week and members of the Guild will lead the morning service. The theme for this year is *Companions on the Road*.

Something different for the Guild, but not the congregation (it's a regular event for the Badminton Club), is a Quiz to be held on Tuesday, 10 September starting 7.30 p.m. Tickets £3 are available now, and we do hope as many of you with your friends and families will join in by making up teams of, say 2-5, and coming along that evening. It is not University Challenge or Mastermind, just a fun occasion! There will be small prizes for the winning team, as well as refreshments, and a raffle. We are trying this event as a change from the autumn soup and pudding lunch, and any monies raised will go towards our donation for the National Projects.

The programme for the first half of the Guild syllabus is now on the notice boards, and the first meeting of the session proper is on Tuesday 24 September when a group of hand bell ringers, The Blair Bells, will be coming from Blairgowrie to entertain us. The group entertained the Trefoil Guild some time ago and we heard it was a great day, with some lovely music and an opportunity to try a little hand bell ringing for anyone who would like to have a go. As always, it is an open meeting with an invitation to everyone. Don't be shy. We love having visitors!

The Autumn Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 9 November. More of that later, but please put the date in your diary now.

GORDON'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY



We are planning a Concert to celebrate Gordon's 'Special Birthday' on Saturday 21st September 2019.

Free tickets will be available at the end of August. Everyone welcome.

If anyone is prepared to donate some baking for the event, please inform Anne Wilson or Frances Sturrock.

CHARITY ABSEIL

Sunday 18 August was the day I abseiled 130ft down the Dundee University Tower.

'MAD'!! I hear you say! YES!!

But all in a good cause.

My very good friends Lesley and Phil lost their only son aged 27 to suicide in August 2017 and have tirelessly campaigned for a non referral crises centre in Dundee under their charity 'notinveinforlee.co.uk'

They have chosen that all monies raised from the abseil will go to the Dundee based charity 'Art Angel'/'

Art Angel group support people with mental health problems in their attempts to get better and stay well through active participation in the arts.

I am delighted to say through sponsorship I managed to raise £800 which I was so delighted with!

Many thanks to all those at Dundee West who so very kindly sponsored me to help me reach this amazing amount!



REGISTER

DEATH

In August, Mrs Margaret Aitken, of Perth Road.

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

OFFICE BEARERS ON DUTY
New sheet for 2019/20 is now available

Sunday 8 Sept

D Orrock

W Lakie

Mrs C Cross

Sunday 29 Sept

Mrs E Blair

Mrs A Almond

Mrs P Turner

Sunday 20 Oct

Miss F Maclachlan

Miss E Will

R Robertson

Sunday 15 Sept

J Wilson

Mrs J Goodall

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 6 Oct

Mrs S Maclachlan

Mrs P Black

Mrs C Lakie

Sunday 27 Oct

N McGill

Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 22 Sept

Miss C Maclachlan

Mrs L Sharp

Mrs M Milne

Sunday 13 Oct

Mrs L Ross

J Tough

Mrs C Sim

Sunday 3 Nov

D Orrock

W Lakie

Mrs C Cross

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sunday 8 Sept

Dr K MacGregor

Sunday 15 Sept

Mr G Sharp

Sunday 22 Sept

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 29 Sept

Miss A Novak

Sunday 6 Oct

Mrs A James

Sunday 13 Oct

Misses A & M Forbes

Sunday 20 Oct

Mrs S Robertson

Sunday 27 Oct

Miss J Dorward & Mrs E Blair

Sunday 3 Nov

Mrs I Knight

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sunday 8 Sept

Mrs D Taylor

Sunday 15 Sept

Mrs E Blair

Sunday 22 Sept

Mr M Revey

Sunday 29 Sept

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 6 Oct

Mrs A Almond

Sunday 13 Oct

Mrs J Hutton

Sunday 20 Oct

Mrs J Goodall

Sunday 27 Oct

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 3 Nov

Mrs D Taylor

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS MONEY

The New Testament is clear about the dangers of money which, in its pursuit, may take the place of the worship of God.

In his book, 'Ethics in a Permissive Society', Dr William Barclay writes at some considerable length on Christian views of money.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16, 19-31) tells us of Jesus' attitude to wealth. The picture painted almost fills one with a feeling of personal nausea and disgust: the one, rich beyond belief, enjoyed the best the world can provide, the other a beggar suffering from ulcerated sores, so helpless he was unable to control the dogs which plagued him as he sat by the rich man's gate – relying, as Barclay puts it, on the crumbs from the master's table.

The scene changes in the life to come and the roles are reversed: Lazarus who, to many in life was but part of the daily landscape, enjoys eternal life.

The second – better-known – parable involves the rich young ruler who asks Jesus how he may inherit an eternal existence following death on earth. When instructed to divest himself of his total wealth and redistribute it to the poor, he departs, sad at heart. Had he not led an exemplary life all his days? Again, Barclay suggests it was the young man's attachment to his possessions that was at fault.

Each of us, during our working life and beyond in retirement has paid his taxes and may have given generously to private charitable causes at home and abroad. Compared with some, our financial resources are considerable, and there remain so many children who lack the basics we enjoy – a bed we can sleep in at night, having benefited from drinking clean water and having had at least one nourishing meal during the hours of day.

In Dundee West, our building is well looked after; much is being done in the community for those in need; and the recent improvement in offerings should be recognised: all praiseworthy projects. But, in conclusion, I quote Barclay's closing words regarding the Christian and his money:

'Nevertheless, it must be said that there is need beyond impersonal giving.'

It was said of a man who was generous with money but who stopped there. With all his giving, he never gave himself. And there are times when the giving of oneself is the greatest gift of all – for that is the gift that Jesus gave to us.

CONNECTION

On a recent short break in Morayshire I visited Brodie Castle. It was one of the hottest spells of the summer, and the castle and grounds were seen to their best advantage that day.

Imagine my surprise to find a connection with not only Dundee but with our parish and one of the most celebrated names in the 20th century art world and this city - James McIntosh Patrick. Also, the event recorded happened exactly 81 years to this month's *Grapevine*.

Amongst the many fine paintings in the castle there was one by McIntosh Patrick and it was accompanied by a letter from the artist, himself, to Major Ian Brodie dated 13 September 1938. It turns out that he was a guest of Major Brodie and his wife at the castle whilst he was undertaking a commission for them. He thanks his hosts for their kindness during his stay, remarks on the kind weather - just as I found it - and hopes that Mrs Brodie has recovered from her cold. All very every day correspondence but just a little snippet from a day in the life McIntosh Patrick.

Having been born and brought up in the street round the corner from his Magdalen Yard Road home, like many others in the church from the West End, it is almost like finding out something about one of your own family. Interestingly, however, he was not living in that house at the time but at 291 Blackness Road.



DANCE: -

Making Dundee Home is our project to draw on creativity, hospitality and spirituality to promote justice and well-being. One of the activities that has developed over the past couple of years is Dance for Parkinson's. Those volunteers leading the dancing or movement require specialist training that we have funding to support. If you know of anyone who may benefit due to Parkinson's then please let me know.

We wish to engage in more Dance as movement is crucial to our well-being and it can be fun and sociable. I'm inviting anyone who would be interested in Community or Tea Dances to let me know. We'll likely have those to lead, but it will be important to have others to help as well. I'm looking for any volunteers from church and community - do get in touch to enquire.



THE BLETHER BUS-COMMUNITY BUS

Are you over 65 years

I raised the Community Bus at the last Session Meeting and they were in favour that I should let the Congregation know about this Service for the over 60's.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET OUT AND ABOUT IN SEPTEMBER

Do you struggle to get out and about? Would you like to go out on short outings where you will meet other people? Would you like to be picked up from HOME and dropped off again at your door.

This month we will be visiting:

2nd – 6th Sept. – Café @ East Scryne Fruit Farm

9th – 13th Sept – Café @ East Scryne Fruit Farm

16th – 20th Sept – Café @ Glendoick Garden Centre

23rd – 27th Sept. – Café @ Glendoick Garden Centre

Bookings open from Monday 26th August at 9.30am. CALL DVA TO BOOK on the following telephone number 01382 305750/305721 between 9.30am – 1pm Monday – Friday

The areas for Monday pick up are Charleston, Menzieshill, Lochee/Pentland and the WEST END.

This bus is organised by Dundee City Council and the trips are organised by DVA.

If you would like to go on an outing please telephone the number above. If you are successful a member of DVA will telephone you and advise your pick up time.

The service is very good, there is a Guide on the Bus who will attend to you going on and off the Bus.

Connie and I have been using the outings.

AUTUMN WORDS

How many three letter or more words can you make from



PUMPKIN

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 15.

Fall Word Unscramble

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. daehiy | 1. _____ |
| 2. sruenwfol | 2. _____ |
| 3. rrqusile | 3. _____ |
| 4. seleva | 4. _____ |
| 5. kare | 5. _____ |
| 6. derci | 6. _____ |
| 7. nmutua | 7. _____ |
| 8. pape | 8. _____ |
| 9. rseebpmte | 9. _____ |
| 10. uipnkpm | 10. _____ |
| 11. nroca | 11. _____ |
| 12. ycilhl | 12. _____ |



CALENDAR

WORSHIP

Sunday 8 Sept	: 11.00 am :	Guild Service conducted by Members of the Guild Coffee after service
Sunday 15 Sept	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 22 Sept	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Harvest Service Coffee after service
Sunday 29 Sept	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 6 Oct	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 13 Oct	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 20 Oct	: 11.00 am :	TBA Coffee after service
Sunday 27 Oct	: 11.00 am :	Rev Jack Laidlaw Communion Service Material for Grapevine due Coffee after service
Sunday 3 Nov	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Grapevine available Coffee after service

WEEKDAYS

Tuesday 10 Sept	: 7.30 pm :	Guild Quiz Night
Tuesday 24 Sept	: 7.30pm :	The Guild
Tuesday 8 Oct	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild
Tuesday 15 Oct	: 7.30 pm :	Kirk Session
Tuesday 22 Oct	: 7.30 pm :	The Guild