

NO.176

MARCH/APRIL 2020

GRAPEVINE



DUNDEE WEST CHURCH

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GRAPEVINE

Material for the May/June issue of the Grapevine should be with the Editorial Team by Sunday 26 April for publication and uplift by the congregational visitors from Sunday 3 May.

PASTORAL LETTER

Within the Grapevine you will see the news that we have a Minister taking a Sunday Service on the 22nd March as sole nominee. Notwithstanding the length of time that this has taken, it is welcome news. Everyone is especially encouraged to attend church that Sunday and of course help us work with a new Minister, should he be appointed.

Throughout the past 4 + years we have been able to maintain and even increase the witness of Dundee West to the love and forgiveness of Christ. It has always been my aim that we maintain continuity and develop what Andrew put in place. It has meant that Dundee West has remained an attractive church and that has helped in attracting interest.

I'd also like to express my thanks to the Vacancy Committee and its leadership, especially Bill Garland. This is a considerable achievement and hopefully things move in the best direction for the ministry of Christ in this place.

Of course, Spring is coming and that also gives us hope as does Easter itself. The details of the Easter services are included in this Grapevine and it would be really encouraging to see good attendances at the various services. This helps build hopefulness for the future.

For my part, I am convinced that the Way of Life in Christ is the very fabric of life itself. In these days of increasing tribalism and inequality we need even more to ensure that this Way of Life is practiced and promoted. Many people hunger for a better way and as a church we are ideally placed to lift this Way of Life up for others to see it for themselves.

GORDON

PAT BLACK - CARDS

In 2002 Pat Black began selling beautiful handmade greetings cards in Church. This coincided with the massive £750,000 Redevelopment Plan launched around this time and all the proceeds went towards this project. For the next twelve years Pat made and sold cards in Church, all the money went towards the ongoing works throughout the Church. When most of the development work was complete Pat decided to give the proceeds of the card sales to a variety of local charities. They included Air Ambulance, Barnardo's, Crossreach, MS Unit – Peddie Street and the Stroke Ward – Ninewells Hospital. In 2019 £100 went to the Stroke Ward. A big thank you to Pat for using her artistic talents for such worthwhile causes and long may she be able to carry on making these unique cards for whatever causes she decides on. We are more than happy to be given the opportunity to buy them in Church.

EASTER SERVICES

Thursday 9th April at 7.00pm Mandy Thursday Communion Service

Friday 10th April at 7.00pm Good Friday Service

Sunday 12th April at 11.00am Easter Sunday Service

ALL WELCOME

LENT

Lent Discussions leading into Easter Week:

Based on the book by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus J. Borg

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem.

Thursdays from 12.00noon to 12.45pm in the Lower Hall of Dundee West-entrance via Roseangle Kitchen Cafe.

**5th March; 12th March; 19th March; 26th March; 2nd April
and 9th April**

DUNDEE WEST CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

ROSEANGLE/PERTH ROAD

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR INVITE YOU TO AN

**EASTERTIDE
CELEBRATION**



EASTER SUNDAY

12 APRIL AT 11 AM



*A SERVICE OF PRAYERS, ADDRESS, READINGS, POETRY,
CHORAL MUSIC AND HYMNS WITH TRUMPET
ACCOMPANIMENT*



"HYMNS OF PRAISE THEN LET US SING!"



THE GUILD

As a member of the Guild at Dundee West Church I attended a talk on Taize Community in France given by our Interim Moderator, Rev Jack Laidlaw. On a personal point, Jack you made me return to my days as senior admin in Education during Tayside Regional Council which involved in looking after the schools and a team of advisers, which included Jack Laidlaw, adviser of Religious Education.

His talk brought me back to those days when Jack was heavily involved with encouraging the pupils to think seriously what religion can do for them.

As a church we are very fortunate to have the services of Jack and I thank him for the talk.

The last meeting of the current session of the Guild will be on 10 March. We start with the AGM which lasts about fifteen minutes and then we will be entertained by the Monifieth Singers. We have heard good reports of this choir and, as always, anyone is welcome to join us to enjoy the entertainment.

We thought this issue of the Grapevine would be a good opportunity to let you know what this Guild did with the monies we raised during 2019.

Dundee West Church	£1,800	National Guild Projects	£600
Christian Aid	100	Mary's Meals	100
Meadowside Homeless Club	100	Air Ambulance	100
CHAS	100	Canine Partners	50
Making Dundee Home	50	World Mission	50

A total of £3050, in addition, you will remember, that Gordon Sharp very generously donated gifts of money he received for his Birthday Bash – another £553 – for the Guild Project Malawi Fruits.

We very much appreciate all the help we get from members of the congregation and their friends who so readily support our ventures. Without it such a wonderful sum would not be possible. Thank you all very much, indeed.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer service for the West End Churches will be held in Dundee West Church on Friday 6 March at 7.30pm. The theme will centre on life in Zimbabwe which still has massive problems for those living in that country. If you have got your copy of the Grapevine before then, do consider coming along. It is an opportunity to learn more about every day living for Zimbabweans, to offer your prayful support, and to meet up with our friends from Logie St John's Cross and St Joseph's Churches.

I have to tell you as well, however, about an exciting coup for the Scottish World Day of Prayer Committee and the wonderful opportunity for the Dundee WDP Committee and Dundee West, in particular.

Every five years an International Meeting is held for about 200 representatives from around the world. The next such meeting will be held in Edinburgh in 2022. So much hard work has been put in by the Scottish Committee to prepare its bid to host this meeting and it is a coup, indeed, that the bid was successful. However, with the event goes the need to raise funds. Comparatively speaking, UK is an expensive venue and many of those attending will be from third world countries some of whom will be sponsored by the International Committee but they will not have extra money for trips and treats. Each area in Scotland has been asked to look at ways they might help raise donations.

The Dundee committee are thinking big style.

We have organised a MUSICAL EVENING to be held in DUNDEE WEST CHURCH ON TUESDAY 21ST APRIL FROM 7.15PM.

Entertainment will be provided by THE DUNDEE INSTRUMENTAL BAND (our own Jonathan Black organised that), and THE TAYSIDE SYMPHONY ORCHSTRA FRIENDS' CHORUS. Tickets are only £6 each and can be got from Elizabeth Blair or through the Church Café. It is going to be a wonderful evening. Please, please do support this event if you possibly can. There are posters on the Notice Boards to remind you of the detail.

BILL YOUNG ~ 24 May 1934 – 2 February 2020

What does one say to adequately reflect the person, Bill Young, a much loved and respected figure in Dundee West Church and, indeed, far beyond? Bill knew and was well known to just about everyone in our congregation. He quietly sought out new faces in pews or people sitting alone at coffee and engaged them in conversation, encouraging them to tell him about themselves, and the information he never forgot! He was particularly interested in young people and those from overseas and maintained contact with many of them for years after they had returned to their own countries. He was dedicated to teaching and taught in many schools in Dundee, ending up as Head Teacher at Mitchell Street School and then at the newly opened Mill O' Mains School. Pupils many years after they left school remember how he introduced them, not only to the three 'R's' but to a variety of extracurricular subjects, Spanish, the Recorder, Chess, being only a few. This is all reflected in the many ex-pupils' *Facebook* tributes to Bill, as well as their astonishment at his recognition and remembering names long after they had moved on into adulthood. One example was quite recently when Bill recognised the driver of a taxi taking him home as an ex-pupil! The driver was delighted.

Bill's service to Ryehill, Roseangle Ryehill and subsequently Dundee West Churches would take a whole issue of Grapevine alone. Never slow to volunteer, he was an Elder, Choir member, Editor of the Grapevine, a great supporter of the Guild and other organisations, but maybe he was best known latterly for his Book Corner. Through his enthusiasm he raised hundreds of pounds, not only for Dundee West ventures but many charities such as Mary's Meals, Christian Aid, CHAS.

He was well-known for his connections with other churches and denominations in Dundee. He sang for many years in the Cecilian Choir and the Diocesan Choir. It is another reflection of the esteem in which he was held that Canon Kevin Golden held a memorial service in St Andrew's Cathedral in honour of the contribution he made to the Roman Catholic Church.

We send out love to his wife, Elizabeth, son and daughter-in-law Neil and Karen, and to the extended family. We are blessed to have known him.

BRIDGE OF EARN SINGERS

On Saturday 2 May at 7.30pm the Bridge of Earn Singers are giving a concert in Dundee West Church. The choir consists of a group of 30-40 enthusiastic men and women who rehearse once a week to give concerts in Tayside, raising money for various charities. This concert will have a varied programme; from Classical to Jazz, Bach to present day, and will include a performance of a work composed by Ken Greenaway! He is also the choir's conductor. He will be joined by guest organist, Robin Bell and David Watt, the choir's accompanist on piano.

The proceeds from this evening's performance are going to the Order of St John, an organisation which provides patient transport to help those undergoing treatment for cancer or dialysis as well as first aid courses, free CPR training, and support for Scottish Mountain Rescue teams. Tickets, price £5, can be purchased from Valerie Greenaway (choir member and Dundee West organist) or at the door.

APRIL COMMUNION

The elders on duty are –

Gordon Sharp

Alison Almond

Adrian Milne

Sheila Maclachlan

Elizabeth Blair

Christine Sim (Choir)

Bill Garland

Valerie Ewan

Donald Orrock

Eliza Will

Isobel Anderson

PASTORAL CARE

In the pastoral group we have been discussing a social event for people who have lost contact with the church. However, with the possibility of a new Minister this could take the shape of a social event for everyone to welcome and meet the new Minister and celebrate what Dundee West gets up to. This will be arranged depending on when any induction takes place. We'll still want to have an event for those who do not make contact, but that will have to be later on.

CALENDAR

WEEKDAYS

Thursday 5 March	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Friday 6 March	: 7.30pm :	World Day of Prayer
Tuesday 10 March	: 7.30pm :	The Guild
Thursday 12 March	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Thursday 19 March	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday 24 March	: 7.30pm :	Kirk Session
Thursday 26 March	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Monday 30 March	: 7.30pm :	P.C.N.
Thursday 2 April	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Thursday 9 April	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Thursday 16 April	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Tuesday 21 April	: 7.15pm :	World Day of Prayer Musical Evening
Thursday 23 April	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Monday 27 April	: 7.30pm :	P.C.N.
Thursday 30 April	: 2.00pm :	Soul Space
Saturday 2 May	: 7.30pm :	Bridge of Earn Singers Concert

REGISTER

DEATH

On 2 February, William (Bill) Young

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

OFFICE BEARERS ON DUTY

Sunday 8 March

Miss C Maclachlan
Mrs L Sharp
Mrs M Milne

Sunday 29 March

Mrs L Ross
J Tough

Mrs C Sim

Sunday 19 April

D Orrock
W Lakie
Mrs C Cross

Sunday 15 March

Mrs E Blair
Mrs A Almond
Mrs P Turner

Sunday 5 April

Miss F Maclachlan
Miss E Will

R Robertson

Sunday 26 April

J Wilson
Mrs J Goodall
Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 22 March

Mrs S Maclachlan
Mrs P Black
Mrs C Lakie

Sunday 12 April

N McGill
Mrs D McGill

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 3 May

Miss C Maclachlan
Mrs L Sharp
Mrs M Milne

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sunday 8 March

Mrs L Ross

Sunday 15 March

Mrs M McMillan

Sunday 22 March

Mrs R McIntosh

Sunday 29 March

Mrs P Turner

Sunday 5 April

Miss F Sturrock & Mrs I Anderson

Sunday 12 April

Miss A Novak

Sunday 19 April

Mrs E Young

Sunday 26 April

Mrs A Cruickshank

Sunday 3 May

Mr B Garland

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sunday 8 March

Mr M Revey

Sunday 15 March

Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 22 March

Mrs A Almond

Sunday 29 March

Mrs J Hutton

Sunday 5 April

Mrs J Goodall

Sunday 12 April

Miss W Patterson

Sunday 19 April

Mrs D Taylor

Sunday 26 April

Mrs E Blair

Sunday 3 May

Mr M Revey

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Translated from Aramaic

O Cosmic birther of all radiance and vibration!

Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.

Fill us with Your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.

Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.

For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power and fulfillment as all is gathered and made whole again.

POEM

At this time of year we always hear lots of talk about cold and sniffles and other ailments. It brings to mind a poem by Greta Sears in her Third Compilation of Poems

THE CURE

**Ah hear, ma freen', that yer no weel,
A ken exactly hoo ye feel!
Heid fair thumpin', throat like lint,
Wee nose, wi' wipin', nearly skint**

**The "cure", m'dear? – keep a boatel handy,
Be it whisky, gin or even brandy,
And frae it sip – no yince – but often –
It will soon yer thrapple sofen!**

**A ken the doctor kens mair than me
(or so it says on his doctor's degree)
And he keeps up to date wi' readin' "The Lancet"
But ma "cure" is fun! Why dinny ye chance it?!**



“WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?”

The people of Jesus’s day were looking for a Messiah to save them from the servitude and injustices perpetrated by the Romans. Many of them believed that they’d found the kind of saviour that they were looking for in Jesus. But Jesus refused to be the kind of messiah that they were looking for. He refused to lead them in an armed revolt against the Romans. Jesus called them to a different path; a path that required them to renounce violence, hatred, and greed; a path that demanded not violence, but care for the poor and marginalized among them and a willingness to work for the wellbeing of all. Jesus’ way of being in the world was not an easy path to walk.

Over time, the theologians, and the church have pointed to Jesus and declared, “Look, the sacrificial lamb, who takes away the sin of world by taking the judgement of God upon himself!” Believe this and you will be saved. But Jesus refuses to be the kind of messiah that we still sometimes want today. Jesus calls us not to believe statements about him, but to follow him, follow him in commitment to non-violent resistance to injustice, by forgiving our enemies, following him by caring for the poor and the marginalized among us.

Becoming a Christian in the sense of accepting theological propositions about him won’t save us. Only a shared humanity will save us. Jesus lived and taught a way of being human that spoke directly to our common humanity and called us to walk a path that would lead humanity to a new way of being in the world.

An old Buddhist goes like this: A young woman gives birth. But after a few weeks the child dies and the woman is distraught. She goes in search of anyone who could bring her child back to life. She goes to faith healers, and witch-doctors. She talks to the tribal elders. But nobody can help.

Finally, one of the elders says, “It’s rumoured that high up in the mountains, there’s a holy man so close to the divine that he can even raise the dead. Now perhaps it is not so, or maybe he is long since dead, but there’s no one here who can help you. If you are desperate, maybe you need to go in search of the holy man.

And so she does. After many days, she comes across a small hut in the middle of nowhere. An old man comes to the door. She begins to weep. She says, “I don’t know if you’re the one they talk about and I don’t know if you can help, but my child is dead and I must have her back.”

The old man answers, “I am the one you’re looking for. But I need to concoct a potion and one of the ingredients is a handful of mustard seeds from a home that has not been touched by the suffering that has afflicted you. Go down to the village, find me the mustard seeds and then return.

So she goes down to the village and goes from house to house. But, she cannot find one family that has not been touched by suffering, death, and loss. Yet, as she listens to the stories of other people’s suffering and as she speaks of her own, she gradually comes to terms with the loss of her child.

The Holy Man never offered the woman salvation from her troubles, but neither did he send her away without help, instead he enabled the woman to engage other people’s stories until she was able to speak her own until she could let go and find a healing strength. What are we looking for? We all want to escape our suffering and our difficulties, we all want to be saved from the vicissitudes of life in the world and the unknowing of what lies beyond But if we are looking to escape our human situation Jesus is not the one we are looking for. Jesus is a holy human who leads us into a deeper humanity.

BILL AND BEN AND ANDY

This is not about children's TV programmes, but all the answers to the questions are men who have/had the first name of Bill, Ben, or Andy.

1. 42nd President of USA
2. Actor best known for starring in the film "Gandhi"
3. American singer best known for songs "Moon River", "Can't get used to losing you"
4. Founder of Microsoft
5. British sailor who is the most successful sailor in Olympic history
6. Scottish tennis player - double Wimbledon champion
7. Rolling Stones bass guitarist
8. Canadian athlete who won gold at the 1988 Olympics but was later disqualified
9. American pop artist best known for featuring Campbell's soup cans in one of his works
10. US band frontman best known for "Rock around the clock"
11. British comedian/author/actor and writer of "Blackadder", "Thin blue line", "The young ones"
12. Guitarist with The Police
13. Dundee West's new Session Clerk
14. US golfer who won 9 majors
15. Host of TV's White Heather Club

ANSWERS TO TOYS & GAMES QUIZ

1. Kite
2. Teddy
3. Lego
4. Doll's House
5. Ring a ring o roses
6. Snap
7. Subbuteo
8. Bike
9. Swing
10. Monopoly
11. Farmers in his den
12. Scrabble
13. Mousetrap
14. Skateboard
15. Operation

FORTHCOMING EVENT

Tuesday 10 March at 7pm the 'Now this....is a mental musical' will be performed in the Steeple Church, produced by Claire Bee (Just Bee Productions). This event is sponsored by the Soroptimists International Dundee as part of Dundee Women's Festival which runs from 29 February until the 14th March. Claire Bee is also putting this Musical on in Dundee West Church in April, date to be confirmed.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN LIFE

Christian life is lived in relationship with God through Jesus Christ and, in common with other Christians seeking to deepen that relationship and to follow the way that Jesus taught.

God is for us

Central to that relationship is knowing we can trust God. St Paul says at the end of the 8th chapter of his letter to the church in Rome, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” and this is the heart of Faith having Faith in Faithless Times.

How do we know that “God is for us?”

Because Jesus Christ, the one human being who is completely in tune with God, with what God wants and what God is doing – has carried the burden of our human betrayals of God and running away from goodness.

Death did not succeed in silencing Him or removing Him from the world.

He is alive, and that means that His love is alive, having survived the worst we can do.

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

There is no set formula to becoming a Christian, but many people have found saying this prayer to be a helpful first step to a relationship with God.

Lord Jesus Christ, I am truly sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life, please forgive me, I now turn from everything that I know is wrong. Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Holy Spirit. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me for ever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus

Amen

- 1. The search for truth**
- 2. Body of truth**
 - a Why are we here**
 - b What happens at death**
 - c. Why is there suffering**
 - d. What is God doing to end all suffering**
 - e How can we have a happy family life.**
- 3.**
 - a Who is God**
 - b Who is Jesus Christ**
 - c. What is the Kingdom of God**
 - d. What does the future hold**
- 4. What do we need to do**
 - a Learn what God's word of truth says (John 17:13-17)**
 - b Chose to obey God (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)**
 - c Apply God's practical guidance in your life (James 1:25)**
- 5 Why you can trust the Bible .**

How can you determine if the Bible merits your trust?
Consider an illustration if a friend consistently told you the truth over many years, you would likely consider him trustworthy.
Has the Bible, like a trustworthy friend, consistently told the truth?

CALENDAR

WORSHIP

Sunday 8 March	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 15 March	: 11.00 am :	Rev Jack Laidlaw Baptism Coffee after service
Sunday 22 March	: 11.00 am :	Rev Dr James Connolly Sole Nominee Voting in Friendship Hall after the service Coffee after service
Sunday 29 March	: 11.00 am :	Worship Group Coffee after service
Sunday 5 April	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Thursday 9 April	: 7.00 pm :	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 10 April	: 7.00 pm :	Good Friday Service
Sunday 12 April	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Easter Sunday Coffee after service
Sunday 19 April	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 26 April	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Communion Coffee after service Material for Grapevine due
Sunday 3 May	: 11.00 am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service Grapevine available

Weekday events can be found on page 10