
Menstrie Parish Church of Scotland



Autumn 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends

‘..... Mary has chosen what is better...’ Luke 10:42

As I write for this edition of our newsletter, in early July, it does not feel very much like summer. It has been cold, wet and windy. However, we still have the hope of better weather to come by the time you read this.

July and August are traditionally the months when lots of organisations take a break for the summer. This gives all of us a much-needed opportunity to take a break, rest and recharge our batteries. I’m reading a book, *‘Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World’*. It discusses how we find intimacy with God in the busyness of life and comes from the passage found in Luke 10:38-42.

There is often a tendency to think that Martha got things wrong. However, if she hadn’t prepared the meal, the disciples would have gone hungry. So we all have tasks to do. The point is, when and how we do them. Mary was prepared to take time out to sit at the feet of the Lord, listening to him, learning from him and being guided by him. It is only when Martha complains, that Jesus answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better...’.

These words encourage us. They encourage us to take time out, to listen to God and to talk to God. When we join the Church of Scotland by profession of faith, each of us makes vows to give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money for the Church’s work in the world. The balance is therefore important. Last year, we talked about the stewardship of our time and taking time to be with God. This year, our focus is on talents and how we can use our talents for God. Although we focus on one area of this vow each year, they should all work in harmony. When we focus on time, we still give our talents and money. Similarly, when we

focus on talents, we still give time and money. It's simply the emphasis that changes.

Chapter 11 of Luke's gospel follows directly from the Mary and Martha story and is about Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray, giving the words of what we know as The Lord's Prayer. It's one of the ways in which we can take time to be with God. We pray during Worship and we also have a prayer corner for private prayer. It is in the church and can be accessed any time the church is open, which includes Sunday and Wednesday mornings from 10.30-11.30 am.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland agreed to issue a Call to Prayer. We agreed that everything we do should be done prayerfully. I would encourage all of our members, whether you attend church regularly or not, to think about incorporating daily prayer into your lives. That way, we can all look forward to something better.

If anyone would like to discuss this more, please do not hesitate to chat to me.

With every blessing

Maggie

Rev Maggie Roderick

01259 761372

MRoderick@churchofscotland.org.uk



Outreach

The Table Top Sales and Plant Sales have been busy with lots of people taking time to enjoy tea, cake and a chat. It has been lovely to welcome people into our Church. The next table top sales will be on **Saturday 26th August and on Saturday 30th September from 10.00am to 12 noon.**

Forthcoming Events

Community Coffee and Craft morning - Saturday 28th October 10.00am - 12 noon. This is an opportunity to try out some simple craft, such as bookmarks and cards or buy some. It's for everyone in the community to come and join us, including children. There will of course be tea, coffee, juice and baking and a chance for a chat.

Quiz Night – Friday 3rd November 7.30 pm

Everyone is welcome to come, make up teams and have fun. Tickets £5 per person from Laura Christie on 01259 760307 or Annette Young on 01259 763535

The Ian Walker Band will be returning by popular demand on Friday 1st December at 7.30pm in the Church. This will be a great evening of music and song. Tickets £5.00 available from Laura, Annette or pay at the door.

T in 2 continues to be lively each Wednesday morning from 10.30am – 11.30 am. It has been lovely to welcome old friends, meet new people and have a chat over tea/coffee and cake.

The Church is open at the same time for quiet reflection. If you would like to help in any way, whether it's baking, selling tickets, making crafts or teas, then please let me know.

Laura Christie, Coordinator of the Outreach Group.

Plant Sale

The plant sale this year raised £ 646.50. Our thanks to Glenochil Prison who supplied the majority of the plants, growing them from the seed we provided. They also delivered them which was a great help.

Ceramic and other large pots, which were donated, were planted up prior to the sale and proved to be popular.

Thanks also to everyone who provided plants, helped on the day and to all who came to buy making the sale a success.

Thanks

Annette

Situation Vacant Christmas Fayre Co-ordinator

After three years at the helm, Sandra Small is stepping down as co-ordinator of the Christmas Fayre. We are grateful to Sandra for all she has done to ensure the success of this important Outreach event. Now we need your help. Can you help lead a team? If so, please speak to Sandra or Laura.

The Christmas Fayre is planned for Saturday 25th November from 10.00am – 12 noon.

Come along, have fun, there will be a variety of stalls, cake & candy, tombola and fun. Tickets £2.00 Primary school children free. Tickets available from Rev Maggie, Laura Christie 01259 760307, any elder or just pay at the door.



Messy Church

There will be two Messy Church meetings over the summer holidays. These will be held on 9th and 16th of August in the church hall. If the weather is suitable we will go down to the green area beside the school. The meetings will last for one hour and begin at 7.00 p.m.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The autumn meeting will revert to a Sunday afternoon at 3.00 p.m. to around 5.00p.m. in the Church Hall. The date for this will be 1st October and the theme will be Harvest and God's Creation.

The Messy Church team look forward to welcoming young families in the village to any or all of these meetings.

Lilian

The Lord Bless You and Keep You



On 11th June 2017 the Wilson Family were welcomed for the Baptism of **Charlotte Emily Wilson**.



Property Group

The property group continues to be responsible for the maintenance of the church, hall and manse. Specialist contractors are called for repairs such as internal / external lighting in the hall, roof repair in the manse kitchen, replacing fire extinguishers and organ repair.

Prior to the installation of the new heating system in the church three pews were removed and five new chairs, to match the existing chairs, have been purchased, three of which have been generously donated.

To improve security, new locks were fitted to the external hall doors and a register of key holders was created.

To minimise costs, garden maintenance of the manse and church grounds, repainting and minor repairs were carried out with self help. We would welcome any help, even for a short time, for ongoing redecoration and other general repairs.

Jim Young
Property Coordinator.

Christian Aid Week



On behalf of the Pastoral Care Group could I thank all those people who, once again, helped to make this week a success.

The door to door collectors managed to raise £801.74, the seven people who took part in the sponsored walk raised £792.00 and the soup lunch brought in a further £215.00.

The total amount sent to Christian Aid was a magnificent £1808.74.

Special thanks must go to the Hay family who organised the door to door collections and the Soup Lunch, and to those who counted the various collections.

Calum MacLeod. (Pastoral Care Coordinator)



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about preventing harm and abuse and making a timely and appropriate response if it occurs.

Harm or abuse of children and adults at risk can happen anywhere – even in church communities. We have a duty to *Ensure a Safe Church for All*. This means protecting children and 'adults at risk'.

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service aims to:

- Ensure best practice in preventing harm or abuse
- Ensure that the Church makes a timely and appropriate response when harm or abuse is witnessed, suspected or reported

What we do

Safeguarding, protecting children and adults at risk from harm, is a permanent and necessary part of Church life. Our key safeguarding message is a simple one for current and historical abuse:

'If harm or abuse is suspected or witnessed, or is reported to you, you must immediately report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator or line manager'.

And then, if appropriate, information is shared with Police Scotland or local authority social work departments. This ensures multiagency working.

Adults who volunteer to work with these groups are members of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG Scheme) membership. Most have had or are awaiting Church of Scotland Safeguarding Training.

The Safeguarding Coordinator for Menstrie Parish Church is:

Sandra Small

Tel: 01259 761249

email: sandra.small2@btinternet.com

MIKE'S BIKE CHALLENGE **For the new heating system**

I would like to thank the congregation and friends for the very generous donations I received for the above challenge.

The amount raised was £3,110 including Gift Aid, and a kind donation of £1000 from my employer, Arnold Clark.

So thank you all very much indeed – it made the cycle ride very worthwhile.

Mike Hamilton

Well done to Mike Hamilton who cycled 100miles and raised an amazing amount for church funds.



Harvest Thanksgiving,

This year Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on 17th September.



Blythswood Care - Shoebox Appeal.

As in previous years the Church is taking part in the Shoebox Appeal. There will be a box in the vestibule of the Church from the beginning of October for anyone wishing to make a donation.

The boxes will be made up in the Church Hall on Wednesday 8th November ready for distribution to Blythswood Care.

I know I can rely on the usual response to this appeal.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Edna Crawford



Treasurers Notes

At just past the half way point in this calendar year I am delighted to give you an update on the amount raised to offset the cost of the new heating system in the Church.

The total raised so far is an amazing £6008.71 including the expected tax recovery through the gift aid scheme.

This is indicative of the generosity of so many members in our Church.

This total has been achieved in the following way—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Smarties Tubes | £838.65 |
| Individual donations | £387.75 |
| Music Evening | £830.00 |
| Shine Concert | £750.00 |
| Mikes Bike Challenge | £2850.00 |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovery | £352.31 |

Grand total (as at 10 July) £6008.71

A great big thank you to everyone who has given so generously.

Jim McAlpine Treasurer



Funerals



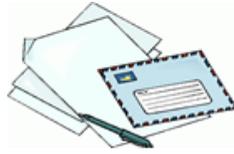
The following funerals took place for:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Mary Nicol | 9/5/2017 |
| Malcolm Blair | 9/6/2017 |
| Margaret McKean | 4/7/2017 |
| Margaret Wilson | 13/7/2017 |

Our sympathies go out to their families.

“In my Father’s place there are many rooms”

John 14:2



Thank You

I wish to thank everyone for kindness shown, thoughts, prayers, flowers, cards, visits, phone calls, whilst I was in hospital and at home during my recuperation.

I cannot comprehend the love of so many people.
Thank you most sincerely.

Joan Caldwell

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who sent flowers, cards and best wishes after I fell and broke my hip badly.

Your kind thoughts and prayers make it easier to bear.
Thanks again

Irene Marshall

Thank You

Betty Winkley would like to thank Wilma Irving and Jean McGrouther for their contribution to the car boot sale she did in Falkirk, raising £100 for the Church Heating.



easyfundraising
.org.uk

Just to remind you that Menstrie Parish Church of Scotland is registered with easyfundraising.

First you must register as a supporter then when you shop online through the easyfundraising site, participating retailers donate a percentage of your spend to our church. **It costs you nothing.**

The easyfundraising site works with thousands of well know retailers. This is not limited to goods but also includes holidays, insurances and many other services. Some give a percentage of your spend while others give a one off payment.

How to do it

1. Log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. For choose a cause type – Menstrie Parish Church of Scotland
3. Click join and fill in your details.
4. You are now ready to shop on line and raise funds.
5. Then remember to log into your easyfundraising account every time you shop online.

When you make a purchase, easyfundraising send you an email telling you how much you've raised and pass the donation to our Church. Do not worry if this does not happen immediately as it all has to be processed.

The website displays a record of the top donations (not purchases) but you have the option to click on anonymous so your name does not appear.

Thank you to everyone who already uses easyfundraising. It may be small amounts but just like the fabric boxes every penny adds up when lots of people are contributing. This method has raised a total of £487.16 for our Church. (correct at time of writing)
This represents an average of £100 per year since the start.

Community Choir with Ben Eames



Our organist, Ben Eames, is starting a Menstrie Community Choir. It is for anyone in the community of any age who wants to come along.

You do not require any previous singing experience.

It will start on **Wednesday 23rd August at 7.30 pm** in the Church and will run until Christmas.

If you'd like to attend, but cannot make Wednesdays, please let Rev Maggie know.

There will be a range of songs that many may know. Come along, sing along and have fun.

All are welcome.

Menstrie Parish Church Guild

The Guild meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Rooms 2/3 of the Church. Meetings are held from September to April. We are always keen to welcome new members. We have an interesting and varied programme which is followed by tea/coffee and home baking.

The Guild Dedication Service is on Sunday 24th September at 11am. This is the final year under the theme “Be Bold, Be Strong – Go in Love.” Our chosen project this year is “All Friends Together.” a partnership between the Guild and Prospects in Scotland.to reach out to people with learning disabilities.

The first meeting of the new session is on Tuesday 26th September when we have Mrs Angela Oatridge speaking light-heartedly on “King James Bible”

On 24th October Mrs Ivy Blair is giving an insight into our chosen project “All Friends Together”

The Guild are hosting a Buffet Lunch for Guild Week on Sunday 29th October after morning service. All are welcome.

On 28th November our guest is well known author Mrs Jess Smith who will entertain us with tales and ballads. Also Bring and Buy Sale.

Our Festive Dinner is on Tuesday 12th December at the Holly Tree Restaurant at 6.45pm for 7 pm.

The first meeting for 2018 is on January 23rd when we are having along Rev Maggie to enlighten us on “Israel and the Holy Land”

It is hoped our programme will encourage new members to come along and enjoy the fellowship of the Guild

Laura Christie
Secretary.

Bible Discussion Group

The Bible Discussion Group will restart on Wednesday 27th September at 7.30pm in Room I. All are welcome. For more details please contact Margaret Perry on 07771 513412

There will be services at Menstrie House on the following Sundays:- 3rd September, 8th October, 5th November (Communion) and 3rd December. All are welcome

Margaret Perry



Thursday Tea Dances and Movies

We are delighted to be working alongside members of the Community Council to provide Tea Dances or movies after the Community Council lunches. The lunches take place in rooms 2 and 3 each fortnight from 12- around 2.00 pm. Afterwards, we are having a trial of Tea Dances and Movies in the hall from around 2.30 until 4.00 pm. You can come along and dance or just listen to the music.

Those wishing to attend the lunch should contact Caroline Crawford from the Community Council or speak to Rev Maggie.

These Tea Dances and Movies afterwards are free and are open to anyone in the community of any age. Tea and biscuits will be served.

The programme is as follows:

Tea Dances will be on September 7th, October 5th and November 2nd

Movies will be shown on September 21st, October 19th and November 16th.

St Andrews Day celebrations will be on 30th November

Christmas songs and carols will be on 14th December.



Christmas Tree Festival 16th – 22nd December Church Hall 2.30-4.30 pm

You are invited to our Christmas Tree exhibition.

Organisations associated with our church are being invited to bring along a tree, decorated in the style of a particular country, other than the UK.

Each organisation will have a table and room to put details of their organisation on it.

Please contact Rev Maggie for details on 01259 761372
Or MRoderick@churchofscotland.org.uk

A good place to start for information is

<http://www.msichicago.org/explore/whats-here/exhibits/christmas-around-the-world/>



T in 2 Duties

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| August 9 th | Margaret Kenney, Laura Christie |
| 16 th | Georgie and Cowan McNair |
| 23 rd | Karen Mayo, Janet Leckie |
| 30 th | Norma and Jim McAlpine |



Notes for your Diary

- August 23rd Community Choir
 26th Table top sale
- September 7th Tea Dance
 17th Harvest Thanksgiving
 21st Movie
 24th Guild Dedication Service
 26th Guild – Mrs A Oatridge – King James
 Bible
 30th Table top Sale
- October 5th Tea Dance
 15th Winter Newsletter Deadline
 19th Movie
 24th Guild – Mrs I Blair – “All Friends
 Together”
 28th Community Coffee and Craft 10am
 29th Guild Buffet Lunch
- November 2nd Tea Dance
 3rd Quiz Night
 16th Movie
 25th Christmas Fayre
 28th Guild Mrs Jess Smith – “ Travellers
 tales”
 30th St Andrews Day celebration
- December 1st Ian Walker Band
 12th Guild Festive Dinner – The Holly Tree
 14th Christmas songs and carol

To Welcome You

August

- 6th Les Sawers, Heather Bain
Isobel Munro
- 13th Jim McAlpine, Calum Macleod
Helen Bett
- 20th Jim Young, Annette Young
Georgie Macnair
- 27th Nancy Stewart, Nancy Hay,
Jim Hay

September

- 3rd Ray McLeod, Sandra Small
Stewart Inglis
- 10th Margaret McKinnon, Susan Delaney
Brenda Cochrane
- 17th Jim Marshall, Margaret Perry
Cowan Macnair
- 24th Laura Christie, Ruth Gourley
Margaret Kenney

October

- 1st Mary Bett, Ian Watson
Janet Leckie
- 8th Les Sawers, Heather Bain
Isobel Munro
- 15th Jim McAlpine, Calum Macleod
Helen Bett
- 22nd Jim Young, Annette Young
Georgie Macnair
- 29th Nancy Stewart, Nancy Hay,
Jim Hay

November

- 5th Ray McLeod, Sandra Small
Stewart Inglis

Morning Services Each Sunday 11am

Minister

Rev Maggie Roderick BA BD

7 Long Row, Menstrie, FK11 7BA

Tel: 01259 761372

Text: 07984 604205

E-mail

MRoderick@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk:

Laura Christie

Tel: 01259 760307

E-mail

LauraChristie45@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Jim McAlpine

Tel: 01259 763004

E-mail

jimdmc Alpine@yahoo.co.uk

www.menstrie parish church.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No SC004778

Find us on 

Menstrie Parish Church