

---

# **Menstrie Parish Church of Scotland**



## **Winter 2018 Newsletter**

---

## And when you pray....      Matthew 6:7a

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how *do* you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some

time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we’re unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

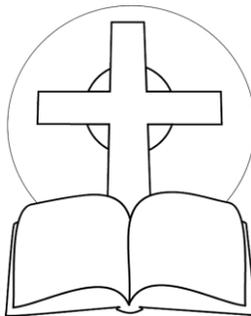
*Church of Scotland  
Resourcing Worship Team,  
Mission & Discipleship Council*



## Pulpit Supply Rota

### December

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. John Rushton, Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. John Rushton
16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Mike Dawson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Menstrie Worship Group, Nine Lessons and Carols
24 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Mike Dawson, Christmas Eve
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Dennis Rose



## **Christian Education Group**

The group led the service on 21st October and will lead worship again on 23rd December. This will be a service of lessons and carols.

There will again be a Christingle Service and this will take place on 13th December in the church at 6.30 p.m. This service has become a Menstrie Church tradition over the past twenty years.

On a personal note I would like to say thank you for Church flowers, Guild flowers and card as well as messages of support, cards and flowers sent at the time of Janet's passing. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated and has been a comfort at this sad and difficult time.

I do hope all will have a happy and blessed Christmas.

Lilian  
Christian Education Co-ordinator

## Church Flowers

Every Sunday our Church is appropriately decorated with flowers – flowers to match the time of year; a particular event in the Christian Calendar; a certain anniversary or special event. These wonderful creations are down to the ladies of the Flower Group – Heather Bain; Nancy Stewart; Nancy Hay; Ray MacLeod; Joan Graham; Brenda Dyer; Ruth Gourley and Annette Young.

Each Sunday after the Service these ladies, along with others within the Church, distribute the flowers to members who have been in hospital and have recently come home; people who have been recently bereaved; members who are unwell; members celebrating a special birthday or anniversary or who have not been seen for a while in Church for whatever other reason.

Members are encouraged, if they so choose, to have their name and donation put beside a particular date in the calendar – the calendar for 2019 will soon be open so if you would like to mark a special occasion or past event on a specific date please speak to one of the ladies listed above. If you wish specific colours or flowers to be used on that date please advise the person you speak to on the matter.

Donations towards the cost of flowers can be made to the ladies listed above or directly to the Treasurer, Jim McAlpine, with the request that they are used for that specific purpose, whether on a specific date or just generally.

Our grateful thanks to the ladies of the Flower Group and to all those who make donations throughout the year.

## **Property Matters**

The manse has been let from the 25th September 2018 for a minimum period of six months. The letting agents Clyde Property will carry out regular inspections and the rental income will be held on our behalf in an account at the Church of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh.

To comply with landlord regulations a mains wired carbon monoxide detector was fitted in the lounge. A new shower has been fitted in the manse bathroom as the existing one was beyond repair.

It has been agreed by the Kirk Session to re-instate the gas radiant heating system in the church, as a reserve, for extreme cold weather conditions.

Jim Young  
Property Coordinator

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Service.**

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Group could I thank the membership for their generosity and their desire to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Your monetary donations of £227.50 was sent to Christian Aid and 61 kg of harvest produce was taken to the Gate food bank

As well as that, 5 baskets of fruit were delivered to Menstrie House and those of our membership in care homes were given a pot plant.

Thank you.

Calum MacLeod

(on behalf of the Pastoral Care Group)



## **Poppy Appeal**

On behalf of the Pastoral Care group could I thank Heather Bain for organising this event and a special thank you to those members who took part in the door to door collection.

Poppy Appeal Scotland will let us know in due course how much money was raised and this will be intimated to you.

Calum MacLeod (On behalf of the Pastoral Care group )

## Menstrie Parish Church Guild



Our Festive dinner is on Tuesday 11th December at "Drummonds " in Alva at 6.45pm for 7 pm. Anyone wishing to join us please contact any Committee member. Everyone is welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Guild meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in Rooms 2/3 of the Church. We are always keen to welcome new members. We have an interesting and varied programme.

The first meeting for 2019 is on Tuesday 22nd January when we are having an insight into our chosen project "The Boys Brigade ".

We are holding our Buffet Lunch in Aid of Guild week on Sunday 3rd February after morning worship. All are welcome.

Julian from Seamab School in Rumbling Bridge is coming to talk on his work at the school on Tuesday 26th February. This should be most interesting.

Laura Christie.

Secretary

## **News from the Treasurer**

Work is underway to start preparing this year's accounts for completion and external examination. At this stage in early November it is likely that we will end the year with a small surplus. This is entirely due to our Church being in vacancy without a locum minister.

As a result of being in vacancy in this way our expenditure is considerably reduced. This, however, coincides with a continued reduction in levels of regular giving.

Income from letting of the Manse will be considerable and very welcome and helpful to our finances.

Projecting a budget for 2019 is challenging with the way forward not being clear.

Since my appointment as Church Treasurer I have pointedly refrained from asking active members to increase their giving. Financial pressures on families and retired members cannot be ignored.

It would be extremely helpful if members of our Church who don't currently give could consider giving regularly. This could be done through Freewill Offering envelopes or by commencing a Standing Order. Information about these can be obtained from an elder or from me directly.

Jim McAlpine    Treasurer

---

## Guild Open Evening

**The Ian Walker Band are back to entertain**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Our Open Evening is on Tuesday 26th March when we are having **The Ian Walker Band** to entertain. This will be a most enjoyable musical evening.



**Keep the date free.**

**Everyone welcome**

---

## **Guild AGM**

The guild AGM is on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

This will be followed by entertainment from

**The Clackmannan Ukelele Group**



## **Thursdays at 2**

This is held after the Community Lunch and all are welcome.

Dec. 13th. Christmas Party



Online  
Shopping 



It is December and we are preparing for Christmas  
If you shop online why not raise some extra funds for  
our church without it costing you anything.

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-  
known 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/causes/menstrue](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/menstrue)
2. Register as a supporter
3. Then simply click on the retailer you want, and shop as you would normally.

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.

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 **£540.64** in total for our Church. (correct at time of writing)

*Merry Christmas*



## Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who donated gifts and cash for the shoebox appeal.

I am also grateful to everyone who covered the shoe boxes and came along to the Church Hall on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November to fill them.

72 boxes were filled, and there were lots of items left over, not enough of the basics (such as toothpaste etc) to complete a box and these were put into other boxes which will also be donated to Blythswood, to enable them to fill other boxes.

There was a total cash donation of £192 which goes toward transport etc.

Your continued support of the shoebox appeal is so important and so loved and appreciated by the recipients, so on their behalf I thank you,

Edna Crawford



## Funerals



- Janet Robb** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018
- Mary Mackenzie** 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Diane Wilson** 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Arlyne Cassels** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018
- Janet Leckie** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

Sadly Janet's husband **John Leckie** passed away just a month after Janet.

- Anna McEwan** 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Annie Preston** 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Our sympathies are sent to all the families.

*"In my Father's place there are many rooms"*

*John 14:2*



## Thank You

I would like to thank everyone very much for the beautiful flowers and monetary gift that I received on my retirement. It was very much appreciated. I would also like to thank Margaret and Isobel for their visit.

Thank You.  
Nancy

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends

I would like to say a big thank you for all visits, cards, flowers and gifts I received during my stay in hospital and when I came home. It was nice to know so many people were thinking of me.

A thank you to Rev. Drew Barrie for his hospital visit and coming to give me communion.  
A special thanks to Rae who was very faithful to me and also Ian for his visits and giving me the tapes of all the services. I enjoyed listening to them.

Hopefully it won't be long before I am back to normal and joining in the services.  
Thanks again for all your kind wishes.

Alison Hughes

---

## MUSICALS AND MORE



**Brightons Praise Group & Gargunnock Songsters**  
Are joined by **Perthshire Brass** to bring you a night of  
music and song

**Albert Halls, Stirling**  
**Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 7.30pm**

**All proceeds go to Christian Aid**



**Tickets £10**

Ticket enquires see Jim or Norma McAlpine

## Sunday Tea rota

30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mary Bett & Helen Bett
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Betty Winkley & Wilma Irvine
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Georgie McNair & Les Sawers
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Norma & Jim McAlpine

### Otherwise

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month Laura Christie & Hazel Dow

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month Annette & Jim Young

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month Hazel Dow & Karen Mayo

If 5 Sundays, Ray McLeod & Margaret Perry





## Notes for your Diary

### Dec

- 11<sup>th</sup> Guild dinner, Drummonds. 6.45pm  
13<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 2 – Christmas party.

For Christmas services see P23

### 2019

#### Jan

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Guild, a talk on the Boys Brigade.

#### Feb

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Guild Buffet lunch. After morning service.  
26<sup>th</sup> Guild, Seamab School.

#### March

- 26<sup>th</sup> Guild Open Evening, The Ian Walker Band.

#### April

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Guild AGM, Clackmannan ukelele group.

## To Welcome You

### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandra Small, Nancy Hay,  
Jim Hay
- 9<sup>th</sup> Margaret McKinnon, Susan Delaney  
Ray McLeod
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jim Marshall, Margaret Perry  
Norma McAlpine
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Laura Christie, Ruth Gourley  
Brenda Cochrane
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mary Bett, Isobel Munro

### January

- 6<sup>th</sup> Les Sawers, Heather Bain  
Nancy Stewart
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jim McAlpine, Calum Macleod  
Helen Bett
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jim Young, Annette Young  
Georgie Macnair
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sandra Small, Nancy Hay,  
Jim Hay

And finally;

“I wish we could put some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.”

*Harlan Miller*

“Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

*“How the Grinch stole Christmas”*

*Theodor Seuss Geisel*

“Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won’t make it “white” “

*Bing Crosby*



## **Menstrie Parish Church Christmas Services**

<b>Gift Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Christingle</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December (6.30)</b>
<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>
<b>Watchnight Service</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Normal service</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> December</b>

## **Morning Services      Each Sunday 11am**

### **Minister**

In Vacancy. Our Church does not have a Minister at the moment. Anyone requiring the services of a Minister should contact-

Rev Drew Barrie      Interim Moderator  
Tel: 01259 213326  
E-mail [DBarrie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:DBarrie@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### **Session Clerk: Joint**

Margaret Perry      Tel: 01259 761398  
Email: [mag9per@btinternet.com](mailto:mag9per@btinternet.com)

And

Isobel Munro      Tel: 01259 762889  
Email: [isobel.munro11menstrie@btinternet.com](mailto:isobel.munro11menstrie@btinternet.com)

### **Treasurer**

Jim McAlpine

Tel: 01259 763004  
Email: [jimdmc Alpine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jimdmc Alpine@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.menstrie parish church.co.uk](http://www.menstrie parish church.co.uk)

Registered Scottish Charity No SC004778