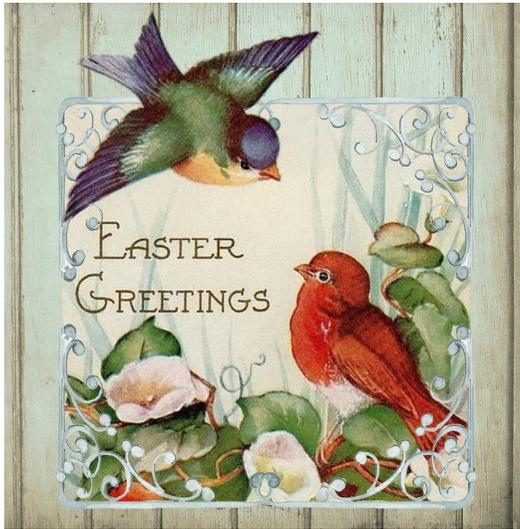

Menstrie Parish Church of Scotland



Spring 2019 Newsletter

Pastoral letter

Of all the parables that Jesus told, the one at the beginning of Luke chapter 16 is perhaps the strangest.

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg. I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly." (Luke 16:1-8)

What on earth are we to make of that? Does this parable really encourage the followers of Jesus to be dishonest? Surely not!

The point of a parable is that it shows us one thing about us and God. The parable of the prodigal son shows us that, no matter what we have done, God accepts us if we come back to him. The parable of the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish builder who built on the sand is that our lives need to have a firm foundation that only God can supply. The parable of the lost sheep tells us that Jesus seeks out those who have gone away from God.

This strange parable points out that some people spend a lot of time and energy on various schemes. That may be something

laudable like supporting a particular charity. Often time and energy is spent on things that are hardly worthwhile. At the other end of the spectrum we have all known people who have been consumed with getting even with someone, or on having power. We have all seen people whose greed has dominated their lives.

This parable asks us how much time and effort we are prepared to invest in things that truly matter? How much trouble will we go to meet the needs of the poor? What energy will we put in to living holy lives? Are we willing to take time to pray? The dishonest manager was willing to go to all that trouble for what he thought was important. Will we expend a similar amount of effort on what truly matters?

The words of the Bible often comfort us. We must also listen to them when they challenge us.

With best wishes,
Drew Barrie Interim Moderator.

Menstrie Parish Church Vacancy

I have now been your interim moderator for just over a year. For me it has been a pleasant experience and I must thank all those who have worked so hard for the church over the last year.

After discussion with the Kirk Session, and the Kirk Session of Alva, the Presbytery have decided that the next minister here in Menstrie will be in the same position as Mrs. Roderick was. That is to say he or she would at first be minister here in Menstrie. If Mr. McNeill then left, or retired from, the church in Alva your new minister would then become minister of both congregations. The congregations would each retain their own administration. They would have separate Kirk Sessions, sets of accounts and the like.

The only difference from the previous arrangement is that any new minister here will be appointed on a 7 year reviewable basis. Many churches in our presbytery have recently been given the right to call ministers on a similar reviewable basis.

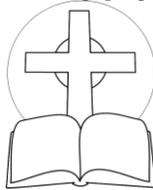
What this means is that shortly we will appoint a nominating committee composed of members of both churches. There will be seven from Alva and six from Menstrie. Nominating committees are always made up of an odd number of people. The people need not themselves be odd.

Before a nominating committee is formed both Kirk Sessions will be asked whether they would be willing to accept a minister in a same sex marriage or civil partnership.

I will endeavour to keep the congregation up to date with any developments as they occur.

Drew Barrie
Interim Moderator.

Pulpit supply rota



March

3rd Rev. Mike Dawson
10th Josh Milton
17th Rev. Mike Dawson
24th Rev. Dennis Rose
31st Rev. Jim McNeil

April

7th Rev. John Rushton



14th Mrs Sandie Kerr,
15th Hillfoots service,

18th Rev. Dennis Rose,
19th Rev. Jason Lingiah,
21st Rev. Dennis Rose,

Palm Sunday.
Rev. Alison Britchfield at Alva
Baptist Church.
Maundy Thursday, Communion.
Good Friday.
Easter Sunday.

Christian Education Group

It is difficult to believe that we are half way through February and the Christmas celebrations are a distant memory. The group organised both the Christingle Service and the service on Christmas Sunday. Thanks to Sandra Small and Mike Hamilton for helping out on Christmas Sunday and to Sandra for helping Margaret and I to make the Christingles.

The group are now preparing for Come to Church Sunday and there is flyer in the magazine inviting everyone to this service and the buffet lunch afterwards. The group look forward to welcoming you on the 17th March to Morning Worship.

The group is now also responsible for Stewardship and it is hoped to hold an event promoting Stewardship in the autumn.

Further details will be given in future Newsletters.

Many thanks to John Gourley for designing the flyer and arranging for it to be copied. It is much appreciated.

Lilian

News from the Treasurer

Church accounts for 2018 have been submitted to the external examiner for scrutiny and approval.

In many ways 2018 was a very unusual year for our Church financially, particularly as we were in vacancy without a minister and also without a Locum. This situation reduced annual expenditure from normal levels. Also with the manse being vacant Council tax payments ceased which reduced expenditure further. Income from donations and offerings reduced considerably over the year which continues a trend evident over the last four years. As a result these accounts show a surplus of almost £5000 for 2018.

It is difficult to project how 2019 will turn out financially as we remain in vacancy and it cannot be predicted how long it will be until we are able to appoint a new minister.

January has started with the thorough inspection of the roof of the Church and the reconnection and servicing of the high level heating system in the Church which also needed partial renewal. This latter item costing a total of just over £1400.

The cost of work on the roof will be in two parts- immediate action to attend to urgent safety work that will cost almost £6000 and then a possible further £13500 to complete all recommended repairs and maintenance. All in all it is not surprising with a building over 100 years old.

It is fortunate that we have funds available to have this work undertaken promptly. It will of course produce quite a dent in our overall funds which is an issue that will need to be addressed.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Church during 2018 for your financial support and hope and pray that such support will continue through 2019.

Jim McAlpine Treasurer

The Guild Open night



“The Ian Walker Band” returns Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 pm.

We are pleased to welcome back “The Ian Walker Band” to the Church.

Ian is an award winning singer/songwriter from Glasgow. He has released twenty albums/songbooks. His songs have been covered and recorded by many artists worldwide. He performs on Banjo, guitar, autoharp & percussion as well as singing.

Alongside Ian is his wife Moe who hails from Hollywood, Northern Ireland and is an acclaimed singer. With her Group “Tricycle” she appeared on STV “Thingummyjig.”

Also in the Band is Jimmy Scott from Bo’ness who has been singing and playing his own brand of country Gospel music since the 1960’s. This should be great evening of music & song.

A collection will be taken with proceeds going to our Guild Project. A light supper will be served In the Church Hall after the performance.

All welcome to this Open Evening.

Menstrie Parish Church Guild

The Guild are holding their annual Coffee morning on Saturday 13th April in Rooms 2/3 from 10 am to 12 noon.



The AGM is on Tuesday 23rd April at 7.30 pm in Rooms 2/3 of the Church. Then entertainment with the Clackmannan Ukulele Group, followed by light refreshments.

All are welcome to any of our meetings and join in the fellowship of the Guild.



Thursday at 2 after Lunch club in Rooms 2/3.

7th March.
21st March
4th April.
18th April

Indoor Bowling
Singalong with Jim
Games Afternoon
Ukulele group entertains

Plant Sale

The plant sale will be on Saturday 25th May from 10am till 12noon.

Once again we are grateful to Glenochil Prison for growing and delivering the plants to the Church.

Anyone wishing to donate plants should bring them before 10am on Saturday morning and anyone wishing to help on the day should speak to Jim McAlpine.

Jim Young





Happy Birthday

Mr Jim Thomson of 25 Broompark East celebrates his 100th Birthday on 9th March 2019.

Congratulations



MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA



We are delighted to welcome back to the Church
Shine Youth Musical Theatre Touring Company
On 11th May at 7.30pm
(doors open 7.15)

Tickets priced £5.00 can be obtained from Laura, Annette or any elder. They can also be purchased at the door.

Shine Youth Musical Theatre was formed in 2003 and has grown to become one of the largest youth theatre companies in the UK.

In August 2008 Shine Kids was launched for children in Primary 4,5 & 6.

The Touring Company entertains groups across Lanarkshire & beyond. It features 35 young people performing from the world of stage and screen with an eclectic mix to suit all musical tastes.

They have also performed at many church functions, corporate events, fundraisers etc.

This should be a superb evening of music and dance.
Everyone welcome.

Please come along and support this Church Fundraising event.



Poppy Appeal 2018.

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Group could we thank all those who took part in the door to door collection. The sum of £801 was raised for this great cause. Special thanks to Heather Bain for organising the collection and labelling the collecting tins.

As a result of the increasing average age of the congregation it is becoming more and more difficult to retain or recruit new collectors and the Kirk Session have taken the decision to make 2018 the last door to door collection. Collecting tins will still be placed in 8 venues within the village and in the back of the church and it is hoped that those who previously donated will continue to do so.

The Pastoral Care Group would like to thank all the collectors, both past and present, for their support and also a big thank you to the households who made us most welcome.

Calum Macleod (Pastoral Care Co - Ordinator)

Defibrillator

You will have noticed a defibrillator placed on the wall of the church hall. This life saving equipment has been provided with a grant from EDF. Training will be given at a later date to anyone who wants to learn how to use it.

This will be organised by Caroline Crawford, secretary of Menstrie Community Council.



Funerals

Mary Collier at Falkirk Crematorium 14th January 2019

At Menstrie Parish Church:

William “Bill” Smith 17th January 2019

Innes Mackie Cameron 24th January 2019

Our sympathies go out to their families.

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

John 14:2

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers, flowers, get-well cards, telephone calls, visits and gifts that I received after my recent operation.

I am recovering well and will return to Church life in the near future.

Thank you all once again for your kind wishes.

John Gourley



Mary Collier.

Judy, Susie, Julie and Ali would like to thank all Mary's friends and neighbours for their support and condolences and donations to Cancer Research and CHSS. It was very much appreciated.

Judy Collier

With Thanks.

69 Blackthorn Grove
Menstrie
30th January 2019

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for all your kindness to me whilst I haven't been so well recently. The flowers were beautiful and your love and care, cards and thoughtfulness have been so appreciated along with your prayers for which I have been so grateful, and know that in all I've been through, God has been with me, and Denny, as he has looked after me so well.

We really do value your friendship. With our love and prayers for you all too.

Denny and Lyn.

Innes Cameron.

To the Congregation of Menstrie Parish Church.

We would like to thank you for welcoming us at this very sad time, and for all the kind and comforting words regarding Innes.

Hope you know how much your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Many Thanks.

Audrey and Alex

Directory and Calendar 2018-2019

Please note the following amendments to the above publication:-

Page 2 – the telephone number for Jim Young, Property Convenor is 01259-763535 (as stated on page 15) – apologies to a previous Property Convenor if he had been receiving calls in error.

Page 9 – Admin & Communications Group – a very important member of the team has been omitted – please add Norma McAlpine, Newsletter Editor, to the list of Group Members.

If there are any other errors or something missing please let Isobel Munro, Co-ordinator of the Admin & Communications Group know so that they can be intimated in the next Newsletter and taken into account when the time comes to print the 2019/2020 edition.

Isobel Munro



Sunday Tea rota

31 st March	Norma & Jim McAlpine
28 th April	Isobel Munro & Sandra Small
26 th May	Brenda Cochrane & Susan Delaney
30 th June	Ruth Gourley & Calum McLeod

Otherwise:

1 st Sunday	Laura Christie & Hazel Dow
2 nd Sunday	Annette & Jim Young
3 rd Sunday	Hazel Dow & Karen Mayo
4 th and	
If 5 Sundays,	Ray McLeod & Margaret Perry

Notes for your Diary

2019

March

- 7th Thursday at 2. Indoor bowling.
- 17th Come to Church Day, buffet lunch.
- 21st Thursday at 2. Singalong with Jim.
- 26th Guild Open Night - 7.30pm Ian Walker.

April

- 4th Thursday at 2. Games afternoon.
- 13th Guild Coffee Morning 10am - 12 noon.
- 18th Thursday at 2. Ukelele group.

May

- 11th Shine Musical Theatre Group - 7.30pm.
- 23rd Guild AGM - Clackmannan Ukulele Group.
- 25th Plant sale.
- 30th Guild Rally in Bridge of Allan Parish Church. (time to be arranged)



To Welcome You

March

- 3rd Les Sawers, Heather Bain
Nancy Stewart
- 10th Jim McAlpine, Calum Macleod
Helen Bett
- 17th Jim Young, Annette Young
Georgie Macnair
- 24th Sandra Small, Nancy Hay,
Jim Hay
- 31st Margaret McKinnon, Susan Delaney
Ray McLeod

April

- 7th Jim Marshall, Margaret Perry
Cowan Macnair
- 14th Laura Christie, Ruth Gourley
Brenda Cochrane
- 21st Mary Bett, Isobel Munro
- 28th Les Sawers, Heather Bain
Nancy Stewart

May

- 5th Jim McAlpine, Calum Macleod
Helen Bett

- 12th Jim Young, Annette Young
Georgie Macnair
- 19th Sandra Small, Nancy Hay,
Jim Hay
- 26th Margaret McKinnon, Susan Delaney
Ray McLeod

June

- 2nd Jim Marshall, Margaret Perry
Cowan Macnair
- 9th Laura Christie, Ruth Gourley
Brenda Cochrane

Reserve: Norma McAlpine

And finally:

“A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

“It doesn’t matter how slow you go, as long as you don’t stop.”

Confucius

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

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 : jjmdmcalpine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jjmdmcalpine@yahoo.co.uk)

www.menstrie parish church.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity No SC004778

Find us on  Menstrie Parish Church