

BROUGHTY FERRY NEW KIRK



Dear Friends,

I hope most of you have been able to keep up with church news through the church website or friends. We are still limited to 50 people on a Sunday and it feels very strange to cover our faces and worship without singing. However it is amazing how well we have adapted to these changes, and with hope of a vaccine on the horizon, perhaps not for too much longer. There are other changes on the horizon, which will affect us all. The Church of Scotland has been under pressure for a number of years with falling numbers of ministers and members, together with a drop in income, even before the pandemic. All Presbyteries are planning for change and more sharing of resources. Dundee Presbytery is planning for one future Parish of Broughty Ferry sharing two ministry staff.

As you know we began informal talks with our neighbouring congregations and our Kirk Session has agreed to work with St James and St Luke's & Queen Street. Formal talks have begun and we are waiting to hear back from Presbytery.

In the meantime I have made a key decision and decided that this is the right time for me to retire: not an easy decision even when I have reached the appropriate age, and especially when church life is hardly 'normal'. However it will allow planning decisions to be made more easily, and perhaps with all the other changes around us, one more will be less of an upheaval.

The date is not yet fixed, but I expect to step down in the first quarter of the new year. There is a lot to organise and plan in church and home life: a house move in these times is complicated! I hope there will be plenty of time to catch up in person before that. Meantime as we approach a very strange Christmas, remember that we are not alone, as it says in John's gospel:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out

Every blessing this Christmas

Catherine

Notices

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep

Wedding

Congratulations to Laura Sim and Malcolm Watson on their marriage which took place on 24th Oct in Broughty Ferry New Kirk with a virtual best man!

Deaths and Funeral services

Mrs Norma Philip on 22nd June

Mr Harold Pirie on 28th June

Mrs Priscilla Walker on 29th July

Mrs Victoire Chalmers on 12th August

Mrs June Murray on 19th September

Mr Barrie Kinnes on 30th September

Mr William Younger on 4th October

Mrs Mary Fender on 4th October

Mrs Mary Stalker on 16th October

Mr Neil Munro on 10th November

Advent

The Church of Scotland has an online Advent Calendar with stories videos and prayers. Find it on www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Christmas Services

We are not yet able to sing, which is difficult, but we are doing what we can by using music in other ways. Here are planned services, remembering that they depend on government restrictions. For services likely to be busy contact Catherine or Kate Reid by email or phone in advance. Please do not leave messages on the church office phone which is not in use at the moment.

Sun 13th Dec Lessons, carols and Christmas music

Sun 20th Dec Nativity (Now fully booked)

Christmas Eve Watchnight service 11.15pm (please reserve a seat)

Sun 27th Dec Shared service in BFNK with St James

Sun 3rd Jan No morning service. Check details on our website for St Luke's & Queen St and digital services.

Presbytery Planning update

Some of you may have seen a 'Courier' article about Broughty Ferry churches on 23rd November.

The photo was an old one which the paper must have kept on file. It is true that our Kirk Session has expressed a willingness to follow the Presbytery plan to unite and create one parish church for the Ferry, and we have been speaking to our fellow office bearers in other churches about how best to work together. However, no union has been formally proposed, agreed or signed so far and there is an established process for this. Any change requires agreement from Session and congregation, and we will let you know if and when anything needs to be decided.

Catherine

Junior Church

Junior Church is still getting children attending each week and although it would be nice to see more each week the Leaders do understand the difficult times we are all going through. This year we would like to be able to put on a Nativity albeit socially distanced within the church. We have chosen to present Papa Panov which suits our number of children at present attending. If other children would like to participate please let me know as rehearsals shall be commencing shortly. Unfortunately we wont be holding our usual Christmas party or panto outing this year which is a shame.

We said a fond farewell to Helen Blair at the end of September as she has now relocated to the West coast to be closer to her family there. Helen will be greatly missed as she had been a great asset to our Junior Church over many years both as a teacher and a friend and also helping to organise and raise money for the many events that we have held over the years.

Helen has promised to pop back and visit us as soon as she can, or when Covid19 allows!

Stephen, Zsuzsi and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and certainly a happier 2021.

Best Wishes

Sheila

Guild

“The best laid plans”well, like everyone else, The Guild saw all their plans “gang agley”. Who would have thought when we were planning our end of session Afternoon Tea in March that this would happen. However things have still been happening at Guild Office. As you know, we support our chosen Guild Project by holding our Soup and Sandwich Sunday which is obviously impossible this year. However, the work of The Guild still goes on and after discussing it with our committee, Mary contacted all our members and asked if they would be willing to accept a small gift bag (very pretty they were, too !) and put in a donation to help fund the project. As usual, you did us proud and when the bags were returned we had raised the wonderful total of £375.



We were delighted, too, that many of you have contacted Mary with your capitation fees for next year. Hope springs eternal! Let's hope it won't be long until we can meet up again.
Mary and Georgia.



Christian Aid

Many thanks to Mr Donald Milne who has been our Christian Aid contact for many years, and who has organised door-to-door collections and donations. Donald helped to promote many emergency appeals and the annual sponsored walks to help the poorest people in our world. He has decided it is time to step down and we express our gratitude for his faithful service.

Thanks to Mrs Linda Crighton for picking up this responsibility and ensuring we continue to be involved in this important work.

Christian Aid sent out this message to UK churches: *Thank you. Christian Aid Week 2020 was certainly a Christian Aid Week we won't forget! The coronavirus pandemic affected so much of your planned fund-raising but you triumphed, you persevered, and you went online. In total you raised nearly 4 million pounds and we could not be more grateful for all your hard work and passion.*

Christmas Appeal

We hope to continue helping the most vulnerable at Christmas through Christian Aid. Their Christmas campaign announces '*Love came down. Hope builds up*'.

In Nigeria Imote Ioryue, 21, sadly lost both of his parents at a young age and was left to care for his nine siblings, alone. Due to the devastating coronavirus pandemic, he has been unable to sell the produce from his farm, leaving him unable to buy food or basic household supplies. Thanks to the faithful and generous giving of our supporters, Imote received cash support from Christian Aid so he can continue to support his young family. Find his story on

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal and you can also donate online. We have always been generous at Christmas. Let's help more families like Imote's in 2020.

Donations can be made through the church in various ways:

by cash or cheque in collection plate at Church door, in a sealed envelope marked for Christian Aid.

by bank transfer Royal Bank of Scotland, Account name: Broughty Ferry New Kirk Sort code: 83-18-33 Account number: 00150029 Reference: 'C.AID'.

by using the links on our New Kirk and Christmas website page.

Heart for Art – Virtual Exhibition

It is now 9 months since our Heart for Art sessions in New Kirk were suspended due to Covid-19 and participants, carers and volunteers are very much missing our social get togethers. The Heart for Art staff based within Crossreach are very keen to resume the valued experience as soon as possible, but we obviously have to protect our vulnerable participants and our volunteers.



In the meantime, the staff have collected artwork from the 11 groups established in Scotland and set up an interactive gallery. Unfortunately, it only runs until the end of November.

It can be found at www.elchoartspace.art –
“Connecting through the beauty of Art”

We have two of our participants work displayed.

The exhibition was visited by Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland who enthusiastically commented: “Heart for Art is designed to ‘promote creativity, self worth and achievement for older people who are living with dementia.” And it does just that!

With eleven groups across the country, from Stonehaven to Kirkcudbright, those who attend are invited to discover their inner artist - and the results are incredible. Awesome art and significantly improved health and well-being.”

At this time of year our New Kirk Group would normally be looking forward to our Christmas party. Instead we hope that all will stay safe, keep your colourful calendars and if possible do some artwork however you can. Take care.

Harry Black 01382 778103

Life and Work

Many thanks to Dr David Watt, for organising Life and Work magazine over many years. The church relies on many such faithful members working quietly in the background. David has decided to step back, and pass on the task to someone new.

Our thanks go to Mrs Moira Shoesmith for her willingness to take on the organisation. If you already take the magazine, expect to hear from Moira.

If you would like to try it, Life and Work are offering a direct mailing service now for £30 per 12 issues. Please get in touch via the church office email office@broughtynewkirk.org.uk or phone 01382 738817

Harvest Thanksgiving

We shared our harvest with others who rely on Dundee Foodbank for help during difficult times. Generous members donated much needed food and basic toiletries which weighed a total of 130.18 kg. (287lbs)

Harvest cards were posted to many of our housebound members since our usual home visits were not possible this year.

The Dundee Nativity: In search of a Star

The Dundee Nativity over ten years has been part of the programme for the Christmas Lights event in the city centre. A professionally filmed version of this year's nativity play, will be available on YouTube and Vimeo from 11th December. It provides an entertaining and relevant slant on the events of the first Christmas. In this year's unusual circumstances because of the pandemic, *Dundee Nativity – Celebrating a Covid Christmas* aims to bring a message of hope, encouragement and reassurance for all ages. Thanks to a generous grant from Dundee City Council copies of *Dundee Nativity – Celebrating a Covid Christmas* on DVD are being offered to care homes, hospitals, and others unable to access the internet. From 11th December onwards, the video can be watched online by going to: <http://thesteeplechurch.org.uk/dundee-nativity> To request copies of the DVD for people with no internet access, please order now by contacting the producer:

allanfwebster@aol.com

44th Dundee Boys' Brigade Company

Hello.

It seems a long time since our previous contribution to the newsletter because, like everything else, Covid19 has had a huge effect on the work of the Boys' Brigade.



Although we have not been able to meet with our Boys since the pandemic began, Brigade Headquarters have been producing material to allow us to engage again with our Boys.

Some of you may have seen the Poppy painted stones for Remembrance Day.

We at the 44th have decided that our best course of action is to aim to restart the company early in 2021.

The officers are really looking forward to re-engaging with our Boys once again and getting back to doing what we all love.

Having said that, we will be starting off with fewer officers due to one or two retirements over the last few months.

We are actively seeking to recruit more help from our ex members and are very hopeful that this will be successful but if anyone in the congregation is willing to help the company out, even if it is just for a couple of evenings, then please get in touch (interim contact telephone 01382 542672 or email bcrichton@hotmail.com).

Let us hope that 2021 will see the Boys' Brigade and the world returning to more normal times. May God bless the members of the 44th and all at Broughty Ferry New Kirk.

Bob Crichton on behalf of the Officers.

Starter Packs Dundee

The Forest Park Road premises are now covid friendly, and easy to access by appointment only, and we would be delighted to receive any unwanted household items. Your donations help the homeless and those who are just starting out but have no means to provide themselves with the basics, like bedding, crockery, utensils etc.

Please give us a ring on Dundee 223977 to make arrangements to drop off any donations.