



# Blairgowrie Parish Church

*'To glorify God...to proclaim Christ...to serve others'*

## Easter Newsletter 2020



**Presentation To Alisdair Drummond and Rev Bill Ewart on their retirement as Session Clerk and Associate Minister with Rev Benjamin Abeledo and Alasdair Shaw**

### EASTER SERVICES

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> April 11am**

Palm Sunday Service

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> April 7pm**

Easter Story in Readings and Hymns

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> April 7pm**

Service in St Stephen's Church

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April 7pm**

Service in St Catharine's Church

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> April 7pm**

Maundy Thursday Service - Communion

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 7pm**

Good Friday Service

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day**

9.30am All Age Family Service

11am Easter Morning Service



**CANCELLED**

## The Glorious Paradox of Easter

# PARADOX



***“I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.” (Psalm 118:17-23)***

Dear Friends,

Easter! For most of us is a glorious day of rejoicing in the miraculous; a day where we reflect not only the resurrection of Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago, but also our own spiritual resurrections in our own lives. The day when, through penitential prayer, our faith in Jesus Christ has brought us the assurance of forgiveness of sin and eternal life. A glorious and wonderful gift and hope!

For others, however, Easter will only serve as a reminder of their cross. You'll feel like you got left behind at Good Friday, weeping, while the rest of the world moves on to Easter Sunday. You wish you could celebrate, but you don't know how. You may even apologise to God for your sadness and lack of excitement.

You're not alone. As your Minister, over the last months, I've watched several Good Fridays and Easters play out in the lives of those among us. Happy occasions when shouts of rejoicing and praises were sung to God. Yet, side by side, illnesses, adversity, disappointments and death has occurred uncomfortably close to these joyful events.

The truth is, most of life is like this. Happiness overshadowed by occasions of sadness is ever present and never far away.

So how do we deal with this reality? How do we deal with Good Friday and Easter coexisting?

I think we start with recognising that the first Easter, the real Easter, was not just one event in time that occurred long ago. Christ's resurrection spanned the ages and has eternal consequences. It applies to you and me today just as much as it did to Christ's followers on Easter morning. It also applies to the future. Our hope, no matter where we may be today, is in the transforming truth of Easter.

Second, I think we need to remember that true faith in God does not rely on our emotions. If you cry on Easter morning because life has been wearing you down, God still accepts you. His love for you is undiminished and ever faithful. In fact, He died and rose for you so that he could more closely walk with you through these hard times. He knows, more than anyone, the heaviness and immensity of the cross.

Third, I think we need to remember that as awe-struck as Christ's first followers felt after his resurrection, they still didn't know what it fully meant... for humanity or for their personal lives. While the resurrection brought their beloved Lord back to them, He was different now. The resurrection simultaneously healed some wounds while raising a new set of questions, insecurities, fears, and even pain - at least temporarily.

Ultimately, all Good Fridays will lead to joyful Easter mornings if we cling to Christ. Whether you are in a season of hardship, rejoicing, or a mix of both, the key is to keep walking in faith one step at a time. Only the Risen Christ can guide us through the foggy path of life. And when our final Easter morning arrives, we'll finally see with clarity that the journey was worth it and glorious!

Wherever you are in life, whether on an Easter Sunday or Good Friday experience, may the Risen Lord be your comfort and joy. He died and rose for you!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen", written in a cursive style.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We would like to thank everyone for the lovely comments we received after the Christmas Service. In December we held a Sunday school Messy Church Christmas party where we played traditional games- musical chairs, pass the parcel and parachute games. We had a lovely tea and a visit from Santa which was enjoyed by all. This term we have been working on the story of Noah.

Dates for April: 5th Palm Sunday School; 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Early Service; 19<sup>th</sup> April Messy Church, 26<sup>th</sup> April Sunday School.

Happy Easter to you all,

Beth, Pamela and Isobel.

## USED STAMPS.

Thank you for the wonderful response to last year's Appeal. We raised over £3,086 for Chigodi Women's Centre. This year's appeal is for The Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Kandy, Sri Lanka where your used stamps can help WDC support women and girls who have survived rape, sexual violence and family rejection, returning them to education or learning skills that allow them to make a living.

How to contribute? Put used stamps in my pigeonhole.

**Moira Somerville**

## BERRY PICKERS CEILIDHS

We have been assured by two local berry farmers that they will have students for this year's season. We have booked the Town Hall for 2 ceilidhs in July – the 1st and the 15th, We will therefore need to raise funds for hiring the hall and for musicians. The Airlie Street Hall in Alyth has been booked for a coffee morning on Saturday 13th June from 10am to 12. All contributions of baking and raffle prizes will be most welcome. Please put the above three dates in your diaries. Baking for (and your attendance at) the Alyth Coffee Morning and, the two July ceilidhs, baking and help to provide the suppers in the Town Hall.

This is a unique way of demonstrating Scottish and Christian hospitality to strangers.

**Moira Somerville**

## CRECHE

I am  
pleased to  
report an



increase in the number of little ones being looked after in Creche during Sunday morning services. This safe, cosy room has toys and books for toddlers to play with while parents (and grandparents) attend Church, and each Sunday two ladies from our volunteer team ensure that the children are kept amused.

Thank you again to all those who help with Creche.

Best wishes for a peaceful and happy Easter,.

**Joy Kearns**

## KNITTED GOODS

There is still a constant flow of beautiful knitted and crocheted blankets, babies' and toddler's clothes for us to deliver to the Family Support Unit in Perth Prison. Thank you so much for your continuing efforts. The staff in this Unit are of course part of the Crossreach operation, formerly known as the Church of Scotland Social responsibility section. All goods not taken up in Perth are distributed to Care Homes, the Sunflower Garden, and people suffering from post natal depression. Please leave your knitting on the pew in the lower hall or contact me for collection.



**Moira Somerville**



## **2<sup>nd</sup> BLAIRGOWRIE BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY**



### **Company Section**

The Company Section has been very busy since the start of the New Year. The younger boys continue to progress towards their badges in Community, Recreation and Skill, with the Senior boys undertaking Challenge topic activities. The Seniors are away to start their topic of 'Moving On'. All these are well received by the boys, with plenty of interest and discussion from everyone. We

are delighted that Sgt Nathan McIntyre is nearing the completion of his Queens Badge and two other boys nearing their Presidents Badges. On Sunday past 12 boys and Officers enjoyed a trip to Murrayfield to watch a Scotland victory over France!

As always I extend a big thank you to all our Boys, Officers, helpers and supporters. Please check out our own website at [http:// sites.google.com/site/2ndblairgowriebb/](http://sites.google.com/site/2ndblairgowriebb/) to find up to date information.

**Bruce Dow, Company Captain**

### **Junior Section**

This session we have had a number of activities including a board game competition. Also we looked at what Fair Trade was all about and at the everyday items we buy which are produced by Fair Trade.

We had a visit from Mark Burrell who is an officer with Scone BB. He is a baker and the boys had a great time making chocolate chip cookies with him. Mark also demonstrated how to make roses from icing and the boys all had a try at making their own.

We have several Battalion events coming up including the Chess Competition, Bible Quiz and also the Festival of Activities, for which we are practising our marching and our songs.

The Chess Club is very popular with a good number of boys attending every week. My thanks to Jim Gibb and Andy Lang for all their help and patience with the Chess.

I would like to thank my fellow officers, Lt Mitchell, Lt Annand, Lt Fraser and Lt Stewart, for their invaluable help. Also Nathan and Graeme from Company Section for their assistance.

The officers and the boys wish everyone a happy and peaceful Easter.

**Lt. Margaret Nicoll, Officer-in-Charge**

### **Anchor Boys**

We are now into the second half of our session with steady numbers on Tuesdays, the winter has been good and no cancelled meetings. The boys have been busy with various activities. We enjoyed Shrove Tuesday with the boys telling us what Shrove Tuesday means but the pancake eating is always the best part.

Soon we will be breaking for the Easter holidays , we will be story telling and Easter craft making. We are hoping to take the boys to visit residents of a care home and make crafts and a visit to the fire station before we have our Parents Night on the 19th May.

We will have 3 boys moving onto Junior section, we will be looking to enrol for the new session in August so if you know of any boys in Primary 2 or 3 who would like to join please ask them to get in touch.

Wishing everyone a happy Easter.

**Lt Irene McIntosh, Anchor Boys Officer in Charge**

## THE GUILD

After what seems like a very long, wet, Winter I am writing this with an eager eye on some warmer Spring days. Already I have admired Snowdrops, freshly opening Daffodils and some lively Spring lambs, so it is definitely on its way. Whatever the weather it is impossible not to appreciate the wonders of God's creation.

That thought leads me to our first meeting after the Christmas break which was a talk by Ann Lindsay. She described in detail the adventures and dangers that some Scottish plant hunters went through in order to bring back specimens from around the world. Plants that we now enjoy and take for granted.

Our Minister, Benjamin, gave an inspiring talk relating to our theme of 'Companions on the Road'. He used the story of the disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus to challenge us to think about our own faith journey and the people we meet along the way.

In February we had a Scottish Ceilidh, this thankfully did not involve us whirling and twirling our way around the hall. Instead it was a traditional ceilidh involving a mix of singing, poetry and readings; some in Scots, Doric and Gaelic, which were all performed beautifully and were lovely to hear.

Our next meeting was a talk about the Workplace Chaplaincy. We learned how volunteers go in to a variety of working environments to lend a caring ear and support people in their daily lives.

At our next meeting we were delighted to welcome some members of the Kettins and Kinclaven Guilds. Marjorie Clark spoke to us about one of the Guild projects 'Journeying Together' which supports teenage mothers in Zambia. It is always humbling to realise just how fortunate we are, and how some people struggle with basic day to day needs. Marjorie was very encouraging however, and told us how much the chosen charities appreciate the support given by the Guild.

The coffee morning raised a grand total of £476 which was a very welcome surprise. The weather that day was awful, so we must send a huge thank you to all the hardy folk who braved the elements to support us.

We are looking forward to the next meeting, which is 'Messy Guild' where there will be all kinds of activities to take part in.

As we move through this season of Lent towards Easter I would like to share a thought from a daily devotional I am using. Catherine Campbell in 'Journey with me' says

'Lent can focus our minds and hearts on allowing the Easter truths to captivate our hearts once more. After all, the message we have is exciting, life-changing stuff!'

**Kathryn Webster**

## OUR PRAYER PARTNER CAROLINE WHITE

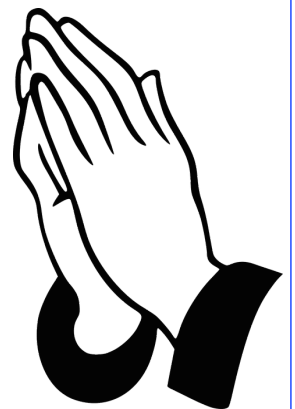
Another academic year is almost over and we give thanks for each child's life that we are able to touch. The new academic year begins on 25<sup>th</sup> March and we expect the number of students to exceed 100. We will also add Class 7 for the first time. We will have to use a nearby house for two of the classrooms as they have now run out of space – we pray that our Father will provide us with a permanent solution in the coming year. Thank you for continuing to remember us as we serve the community here for providing good quality education.

Many thanks.

**Caroline**

When Caroline was here last summer she left a CD describing the work of Tank Hospital. If anybody would like to borrow it, please contact me on 875240.

**Moir Somerville, Correspondent**





Sophia with her locust.

The start of 2020 has seen Messy Church explore the story of Moses. In January the children explored the young Moses making wicker baskets for the baby in the craft area and for the cooking.

Benjamin talked about the plagues that the Egyptians had to suffer until he allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. The children made charts of the 10 plagues and in the craft they made locusts which was the eighth plague. They also painted on each other boils which was the 6<sup>th</sup> plague.

The food provided was wraps and pitta which would have been eaten by the Israelites during their stay in Egypt. Unfortunately the March Messy Church was cancelled due to the Coronavirus and it is hoped that there will be a Messy Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, the theme will be New Start, New Life.

**Susan Whiteford**

## JUST A MUM?

A woman, renewing her driver's licence, was asked at registry to state her occupation. She hesitated, unsure how to classify herself. The clerkess explained "What I mean is, do you have a job or are you just a ....?" The woman said "Of course I have a job. I'm a Mum." The clerkess replied sympathetically "We don't list Mum as an occupation, housewife covers it."

I forgot all about this story until one day I found myself in the same situation. This clerkess was obviously a career woman – poised, efficient and possessed of a high sounding title like 'Official Interrogator' or 'City Registrar'. "What is your occupation?" she probed. What made me say it I do not know, the words simply popped out. "I am a Research Associate in the field of child development and human relations". The clerkess paused, pen frozen in mid air, and looked up as though she had not heard correctly. I repeated the title, slowly emphasising the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written in bold black ink on the official questionnaire. "Might I ask," said the clerkess with new interest, "Just what you do in your field?" Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply "I have a continuing programme of research (what mother doesn't?) in the laboratory and in the field (normally I would have said indoors and out). I am working for my Masters (the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding and I often work 14 hours a day (24 more like it!). The job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers, the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money". There was an increasing note of respect in the Clerkess's voice as she completed the form, stood up and personally ushered me to the door.

As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants, ages 13, 7 and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model (6 months old) in the child development programme testing out a new vocal pattern. I was now distinguished and indispensable to mankind – not 'just a MUM!' I had scored a beat on bureaucracy!!

**(contributed by Elspeth Munro)**



## SOCIAL CLUB



We are now well through our season of indoor play and it has been another successful year for the club with membership numbers remaining constant. Following our AGM, the Committee members remain the same as previously. We are also pleased to be in a position to make a donation towards the heating and lighting costs of the Church. We will continue to play until the end of May when we break for Summer and will resume again during the first week of September.

We are always happy to welcome new players.

**Anne Byers, Secretary**

## MARY'S MEALS

This organisation, which feeds children as long as they attend school, has been supported by a group led by Margaret Young for many years.

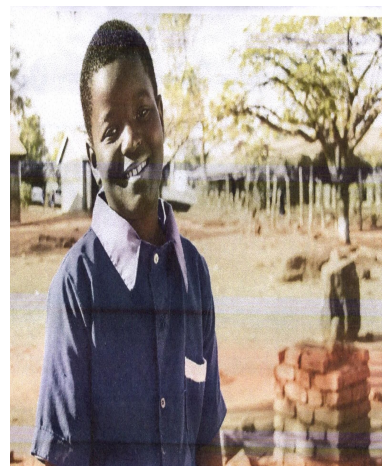
The most recent fund raiser, a New Year Ceilidh held on 10<sup>th</sup> January in the Town Hall, raised a total of £1600 plus donations.

The next big fund raiser is the ever popular Coffee Morning which is to be held in the Town Hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 10am to 12 noon. Plans are in hand to hold a charity shop, date to be announced later.

The porridge which the children are given every day at school is called Phala. Eleven year old Cyrus from Malawi said "Phala gives us energy and strength".

Cyrus is proud to be top of his class, and has ambitious plans for his future. Each mug of Phala brings children like Cyrus a step closer to achieving their dreams..

Any enquiries re this group should be directed to **Margaret Young** on 875086.



**Cyrus in school uniform**

## FABRIC REPORT

Since New Year the stairlifts have been serviced and a fire safety inspection carried out. As you may have seen, some repair work is being done on the hall roof as well as routine maintenance. More work, including a new flat roof above the Session Room, is due to be completed in the Spring.

**Roger Mackey, Fabric Convener**

## EVENTS SUPPORT GROUP

It seems no time since I wrote the last report. However, our Soup Lunches have continued to thrive during the winter months and it's lovely to see the days becoming lighter and longer. In December £260 was raised for CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and in January £220 was raised for Souper Sunday HIV/AIDS, with the £190 proceeds from our February lunch going to Blairgowrie Brownies and Guides. The March lunch was cancelled, but a Stovie and Entertainment afternoon took place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, with the proceeds going to Wisecraft, who would have been the beneficiary of the March Soup Lunch. We appreciate your attendance at this and your continuing support.

**Sandra Fleming Convenor**



**Newhill singers led by Mrs I Johnson**

## **THE CHALLENGE OF GROWING OLD**

To have an 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday is somehow daunting. In our church family many have had Birthdays beyond eighty and know what it is 'to be full of years'. What a privilege to have been given all that time. We marvel at the wonder of God's loving-kindness and faithfulness.

Has old age finally arrived at eighty? Is the story of Caleb in the Old Testament not a challenge and inspiration?

In the book of Numbers chapter 13 we read the story of Caleb who was one of twelve spies sent out to survey the Promised Land prior to invasion. Most of the spies came back with adverse reports saying things like, "We saw giants. We felt like grasshoppers. These people are stronger than us." This was not the opinion of Caleb and Joshua who said, "We should go up and take possession of the land. We can certainly do it. The Lord is with us. Fear not."

Later on in the story we see Caleb, now 85, triumphant in old age. What an example and inspiration he is. In the Joshua account we read in chapter 14. 11 Caleb says, "I'm still as strong and vigorous as I was. Give me this mountain." What a great example of true grit and determination.

May God grant us 'oldies' the grace to see that our last years can be our best.

**Marjorie Ferguson**

## **SEEN ON CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS:**

**WE ARE AT YOUR SERVICE – WHY NOT COME TO OURS?**

**WE OFFER SOULING AND HEALING SERVICES INSIDE**

**COME INSIDE FOR A FAITH LIFT**

**YOU'LL GET A WARM WELCOME AT OUR SERVICES – CLOTHES DON'T MATTER**

## **DATA PROTECTION**

This article is for all holders of personal data in the Congregation. It should also be of interest to all members as it summarises how Data Holders deal with data that is stored electronically or on paper. Personal data should only be accessed by those who need it for the work they do for and on behalf of the congregation. Personal data should not be shared with anyone who is not authorised to receive it. Records that are held electronically are to be password protected and encrypted. Records held on paper are to be kept in a locked drawer or cabinet. When records are passed from one Data Holder to another on paper it should be in a sealed envelope.

We have a comprehensive Data Protection Policy and a copy is available in the lower hall.

**Jim Gibb, Data Protection Co-ordinator**

## RETIRAL TRIBUTE TO THE SESSION CLERK AND TO THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER

by Dr Alasdair Shaw

I am delighted to be here this Sunday to pay tribute to two of my heroes – Alisdair Drummond and Bill Ewart. Each has been a devoted servant of this Church and the wider community.

Alisdair has been our Session Clerk for some 25 years – what a record! He has been diligent, resourceful, enterprising and dedicated. No challenge has been too great, no additional task has been brushed aside. He has, of course, stood in front of us all, leading us through a host of different processes, be they annual meetings or changes of Minister. He has worked just as hard in the background, attending Presbytery, General Assemblies and countless Church meetings, not forgetting sneaking in the night before the hour-change to reset the Church clock twice yearly! He has helped us through various crises when his guidance, calmness and diplomatic skills prevailed. Big issues, and many minor ones too, such as the first Sunday Benjamin preached as our new Minister. Who made sure that it was Benjamin's name on the board at the Church entrance? Yes it was Alisdair, the pragmatist with the endearing smile that helps cajole folk to assist with the myriad of chores requiring attention to ensure a smoothly running Church. Of course, behind every great man is a supportive lady. So let's not forget Margaret, without whose loyalty I am sure Alisdair would have found the challenge of being Session Clerk much greater. Working together they have also been instrumental in delivering the many years of our successful Church magazine. For your dedication and your service, Alisdair, we say thank you, and on behalf of the Congregation I now wish to present you with a token of our gratitude.



**I turn now to my second hero. Bill Ewart.** Speaking to Bill a week or so ago I gained some fascinating insights to his early life. With typical modesty Bill said that he did not blossom at school and started an apprenticeship with Colvilles the Steel Maker. But talent will shine through. Bill studied for an Ordinary National Certificate, then a Higher National Diploma in metallurgy and went on to gain a Bachelor of Science Degree at University. However, in the background was an increasingly loud call to the Ministry. At the steel works Bill was in charge of a furnace, a huge fire hot enough to melt iron, kept ablaze continuously and under the control of one man – Bill. What is that a metaphor for? Bill literally turned his back on the eternal fire to answer the call of God.

Bill has been our Associate Minister for 8 years. Soon after he started I began to hear from a variety of sources that an increasing number of parishioners were feeling uplifted by regular visits from Bill whose quiet calm and empathy, perhaps amplified by the tragic loss of his wife Ellen, brought succour to many. Bill continued his visits throughout the community until his retirement at the end of February. The reports are consistent, “what a nice man”, “how sincere”, “how comforting”, “how dedicated”. Bill has also demonstrated another important gift and that is the gift of grace.

We must also pay tribute to the countless times Bill has stepped in to lead our worship, notably over the period of the vacancy. Bill, you have been a friend and an inspiration. On behalf of the Congregation I now present you too with this token of our appreciation.

**Alisdair and Bill each received a cheque from the members of Blairgowrie Parish Church, together with greetings of respect and affection.**

### A BIG THANK YOU!

My dear friends – I offer sincere and grateful thanks for the generous cheque presented to me as I stepped back from my role as Session Clerk. Thank you Alasdair Shaw for your kind comments made at the presentation and to the many who thanked me personally. It has been a great honour to have served this Church in such a way. The friends I have made over the years and the happy memories I am left with are impossible to count, but to me are truly a reflection of the many blessings of being part of Blairgowrie Parish Church family. Thanks again to all who contributed to my retiral gift. God bless you all.

**Alisdair Drummond.**



April	5th	Mr Ron Shepherd	August	2nd	Mrs Diana Scott
	12th	Mrs Jacky Armsworth		9th	Mrs Irene Campbell
	19th	Mrs Becky McLagan		16th	
	26th	Mrs Margaret Drummond		23rd	Mrs Anna Graham
				30th	Mr & Mrs Lawrence Hill
May	3rd	Mrs Shirley Irvine	September	6th	Mrs Dorothea Cooke
	10th	Mrs Joyce Jones		13th	Mrs Anne Taylor
	17th	Mrs Wendy McLaggan		20th	Mr David Phillips and Miss Myra Webster
	24th	Mrs Etta Anderson		27th	Mrs Elizabeth Porter
	31st	Mrs Elspeth Dunlop			
June	7th	Mrs Caroline Spragge	October	4th	Mrs Ellen Howat
	14th	Mrs Suzanne Davidson		11th	Mrs Mary Dow
	21st	Mrs Caroline Spragge		18th	Mrs Etta Anderson
	28th	Mrs Molly Duncan		25th	The Stewart Sisters
July	5th	Mrs Isa Niven	November	1st	Mrs Laura Mackay
	12th	Mrs Anne Robertson		8th	Mrs Jean Gibb
	19th	Mrs Marion Jarvie		15th	Mrs Joy Kearns
	26th	Mrs Jackie Edwards		22nd	Mrs Doreen Anderson
				29th	Mrs Kirsty Spittal
		December	6th	Advent	
			13th	Christmas	
			20th	and	
			27th	New Year	

## PARISH REGISTER



## Deaths of Members

Mrs Elma Shepherd,	The Orchard, Kirk Wynd
Mrs Jean McCabe,	Hope Park Care Home
David Jones,	Balmoral, Keay Street
James Webster,	Cothill, by Dunkeld
William Jarvie,	Hope Park Care Home
Jenny Slater	Beech Manor Care Home
Cyril Reid	1 Moyness Park Crescent

## New Members By Transfer of Certificate

Mr Charles and Mrs Elinor Smith, 'Glenbay', Brucefield Road

### By Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs Joyce Jones, Flat 8, Darroch Gate

Mr Paul and Mrs Jane Blackburn, 'Inchbrae', Smith Lane, New Alyth

**DAVID JONES**

We were sad to hear of the death of David Jones. David had been an ordained Elder since 1968, and he was a welcome addition to this Kirk Session when he and Joyce retired to Blairgowrie. David decided to step down from 'active duty' in 1992, but up until then he carried out his responsibilities most conscientiously and his contribution at meetings proved invaluable. Until quite recently he attended Church very regularly, always with a smile and a cheery remark.

**Alisdair Drummond**

**JIM WEBSTER**

Jim passed away recently. He was one of our more senior Elders, ordained almost 40 years ago, and his passing is a great loss to our Church. Jim was our Fabric Convener for a number of years and served on three Nominating Committees, on two of which he was Convener. Failing health over the last year or two very much limited his attendance at Church, which troubled him greatly, but he always kept in touch and showed a keen interest in what was happening. Jim's contributions to debates at Kirk Session meetings were meaningful, practical, and enlivened by his ever-present sense of humour.

**Alisdair Drummond**

**A WEE WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

Alisdair has thanked you personally in this newsletter for your kindness and support to him over these past 25 years and I too would like to thank you all for putting up with my nagging for reports, articles etc when print deadlines loom. However, I have told Benjamin of my intention to retire as editor and I understand that amongst the proposed committees to be formed soon there will be a 'communications' one which would presumably include a newsletter. I do feel that, after 23 years of my involvement, it should be getting the 'new look' and fresh ideas that a team effort could achieve.

Historically there have been newsletters in various forms through the past century of our Church. Often there were gaps when editors retired with no-one to take over. This is what had happened when in 1997 Nanette Fleming, Margot Mackay and myself re-launched a St Andrews Church newsletter when Rev Robert Sloan became our Minister. This continued until the union with St Mary's South Church when merging of the two churches' activities resulted in another lapse. However, when Rev Donald Macleod became our Minister I picked up the threads myself to try to keep it going. For many years thereafter it was all done 'in-house', with Bruce Dow laying it out and Alisdair and I running off 700 copies of each issue on the church photocopier. From 2017 till 2019 it enjoyed true 'magazine' quality when a publishing company printed it free of charge in return for the profits from local advertising. However when they 'went bust' a year ago we downsized to the present newsletter and I am grateful to Susan Whiteford for her present layout assistance. Next issue would be in August.

So that's the story so far, folks, and I trust it will have a happy ending!

Best wishes to you all,

**Margaret Drummond**