



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



Christmas Services



Sunday 20 th December	Family Service	3pm
Thursday 24 th December	Service of Lessons and Carols	7pm
Friday 25 th December	Christmas Day Service	10.30am

The Christmas Message of Hope

“Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.” Psalm 42



We talk a lot about hope don't we?

Under the current crisis and a challenging year which has been dominated by COVID-19, we are desperately longing for hope. Hope for a cure; hope to be restored to normality; as well as hoping for a variety of reasons including hope that we will get just what we want for Christmas. But, of course, the truth is that, for many of us, hope lacks a sense of certainty. It is more like a wish—something that we want to happen but have no way of knowing that it ultimately will.

The reality is that often life doesn't turn out the way we hoped it would. Hope is a delicate and fragile commodity. When life is disappointing, our optimism is replaced by feelings of discouragement and hopelessness. Before long we run the risk of becoming pessimists and cynics who believe that there is nothing in which we can confidently hope. Fear has become the daily diet, feeding our souls with negativity and hopelessness. We listen to the news filled with stories of conflict, wars, terrorism, tragedies; we listen to politicians promising everything and promoting themselves to be saviours; we follow the advice of endless numbers of agony aunts, telling us how to become more confident in ourselves; to dabbling into all forms of spirituality which promises much but delivers little. Hopelessness!

This, believe it or not, was the landscape of life when Jesus entered the world. The dominant mood of Israel at that time was anything *but* hope. The once proud nation was now a puppet state of the pagan Roman Empire. The common person lived under the defeating burden of the extravagant requirements of the religious establishment. Centuries before, they had been promised a deliverer, a saviour who would restore Israel to its former glory, but it had never happened. It was just a dream, an aspiration, a hope which for many, it had disappeared into another false expectation and hopeless promise.

And yet, into this sense of cynical hopelessness, true Hope was born. But the tragedy of that first Christmas was that very few realised the hope that had been introduced. Hope for the forgiveness of sins. Hope for a bright future—forever. Hope for God's presence and power in daily living. Hope that would enable us to forget the past and set our sights on things that

doesn't disappoint. A hope that, because of Jesus, is a certainty and not just another wish to be sunk on the rocks of a mere existence.

I love the honesty of the psalmist who said,

“Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?”

We've all been there, haven't we? But let's not stop there.

Keep reading!

“Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God” (Psalm 42:5).

Let us, rejoice that Jesus came to give us something better than the disappointments of life on planet earth and false hopes and promises by mere mortals. And when by faith we embrace Him and all that He promised, we can have a hope that is no longer a fingers-crossed wish that you desire in your heart, but rather a confident, courageous optimism that is rooted in the certainty of the Bible and on the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and who is the real reason of Christmas.

My dear friend, whoever you and wherever you are in your journey of faith or not, let me encourage you to look beyond the news, COVID-19, politicians, advisors or even man-made religions and pin your hopes on Jesus this Christmas—you won't be disappointed! He cares for you more than you know!

Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

In His service and yours,



(Minister)





From the Session Clerk

The last time I wrote for the church magazine I was advising that we were planning to open for private prayer on the 20th July. It seems such a long time ago!

We did indeed open twice a week as planned, and with a short hiatus due to the Coupar Angus COVID outbreak, kept going until the end of September. Numbers were never huge, but those who faithfully attended did appreciate the opportunity of the serenity of the sanctuary. My personal thanks go to all those volunteers who joined the rota or helped in the background to make this happen.

This was followed by the resumption of Sunday morning worship at the end of September which involves a good number of people who take reservations, do door duty, direct worshippers to available seating and do a sanitising wipe down of the sanctuary after the close of the service. Our cleaner then follows this up with deep clean prior to the next opening. Again, thanks are due to all those folks.

As I write, Perth & Kinross is placed in Level 3 restrictions. That means we can have a maximum of 50 people in attendance at Sunday worship. For churches in areas moving into Level 4 this is reduced to twenty. That must be so difficult to manage as we have already had to respectfully decline entry to a few who have not reserved a place prior to the Sunday. Encouragingly, we have around 45 people each week.

For those not yet ready to return to the church building, the service is available each week after it had been recorded, edited, and uploaded to our website. This means that the recording is not available until mid-afternoon. In addition, we now have 14 CDs being delivered. The Session has recently agreed that we should explore options for livestreaming of the service and if you have any thoughts on this, or other ways of meeting our congregation's needs, please let us know.

What is new? Well, our online Bible Study for Advent is starting (as I write) tonight. It will be a leap of faith for all those who have signed up, and I pray the technology does not get in the way of the discussion and message.

So, has it been a quiet time as Session Clerk? Perhaps surprisingly, no.

The Session and Board have continued to meet online regularly, and my thanks go to David Howat for setting up these meetings so efficiently. Worship issues, including induction of new elders, Remembrance Sunday and Advent Services have been discussed. Do check out our website for details of our planned Christmas worship! Meanwhile, the Board has been busy with finance and property matters which seem to go on regardless of the pandemic. Please continue to pray for the work of the elders and Board members as they continue to serve in difficult circumstances.

Morning worship is still deeply meaningful, but different. Church meetings are different, being online. Our Bible Study is different, via Zoom. Elders' engagement with those in their districts is different, being unable to visit indoors. Christmas services and celebrations will be different, being restricted in number and allowable activities. So much change in so short a period.

However, the one constant we all can depend upon is God – who never changes in His goodness, His faithfulness and His purpose.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. (Isaiah 40:28)

Whatever the Advent period may look like, I wish us all continued blessings and peace at this time.

Clifford

Fabric Report

The application for the replacement roof windows with Velux windows was rejected by the Council and the Board decided that the best way forward was to replace the roof windows with similar ones which doesn't require planning. A source was found to make new windows, unfortunately there has been a delay due to the factory making other items for COVID. The roofer has been given permission to proceed with replacing the lead flashing and it is hoped this will stop the water coming into the hall.

New metal consumer boards have been installed and plans are being drawn up for a new emergency lighting system to cover the Sanctuary, upper and lower hall.

The fabric sub-committee are to look at all aspects of the Church and hall and to devise a plan to take forward anything that needs to be done and look at funding for the projects.

Roger Mackey

The roof of the session room and the skylights requiring repairs.



Christmas Acrostic

- C** is for the Child born that night to be our Light
- H** is for Holy is HIS name
- R** is for Rejoice with gladness and joy
- I** is for Immanuel, God with us
- S** is for the Star that led the wise men to Him
- T** is for the Truth and grace that was sent our way
- M** is for mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger
- A** is for Angels singing songs of joy
- S** is for Salvation, Merry Christmas

The Guild



Hello to our lovely Guild members and to anyone else who is reading this.

Little did I think when the last newsletter went out that we would still be unable to see each other now. It seems such a long time since we met, and I am sure you are all missing the company and fellowship as much as I am, especially now we are heading into winter and can't get out so much. If you have forgotten what people look like there is a lovely picture of Ethel Dow, Wilma Gibb and Mary Dow in the 17th November newsletter. Spot them in the crowd! If you are unable to access the Guild Newsletter there is a plan to include it in the Guild section on the church website very soon.

Something we can do as a Guild is to continue to pray for the Guild projects, they are all finding the effects of COVID challenging, especially those in poorer countries where resources are limited. Malawi Fruits continues to support farmers and they are praying that their new President will continue to serve God as leader of the country. Mable and her team at Journeying Together have sent 50 young mothers on to extend their training and education and recruited 50 more. India is suffering badly with the effects of the coronavirus but The Free to Live Trust continues to support children from red-light districts and now have 60 children at the home in Bori. The Seaman's Mission is especially in demand as many sailors have to stay away from home due to new travel restrictions and are missing their families. The Boys Brigade has been unable to meet during the past months so created 'Boys Brigade at HOME' to allow the boys to do activities at home with parents or carers. They have been unable to fund raise but are optimistic about the future and the benefit they give to young people.

As a way of keeping in touch we are hoping to hold a remote afternoon tea. A message will be sent to Guild members with an invitation to sit and have a cup of tea at 2pm on 14th December. Perhaps it would be a good time to pick up the phone and call someone too. Mary Dow has already put her creative skills to good use, and has sent out the poem 'The Cross in my Pocket' with a beautifully embroidered cross, to Guild members.

The Guild newsletter quotes Psalm 23 and Thessalonians 5: 16-18. Reading these words is a reminder to trust in God's goodness to us, but also a reminder to pray and give thanks even if we feel we have little to be grateful for. As we head into Advent, we can look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and remember what a special gift that is.

May God Bless you all and keep you safe.

Kathryn Webster

Treasurer's Report



To say that 2020 has been a challenging year would be something of an understatement. Our Church building was closed for months and is now open for a limited number of worshipers. As a result, givings have fallen. However, many members who formerly donated via offering envelopes now use the Standing Order system. As a result, fewer envelopes have been ordered so for those continuing to use the FWO envelopes, please expect a new number on the envelope. Some who have changed have in addition donated “catch up” givings, some to the end of the year. Of course, we must not forget that some members will themselves have suffered financial loss as a result of Covid.

May I emphasise that however members donate, their donations are most welcome.

To all who have donated, we must say a huge thank you.

It is likely that this year, just like last will be a deficit year. Members will have noted leaks from our roofs. Emergency repairs have been carried out but next year will see more substantive repairs and of course costs. The likelihood is that we will require to dip into savings. We are fortunate that we have savings but when savings are gone, they are gone.

Susan Whiteford has volunteered to convene a small group whose remit will be to explore funding. We have a wonderful Church building, but it is expensive to maintain. Some areas could be described as “tired”. They need freshening up.

We should congratulate ourselves that we are considered to be an outward looking congregation, so a large portion of our income is sent centrally to the Church of Scotland. This supports the wider work of the Church. We are NOT simply a building maintenance organisation. We remember others less fortunate than ourselves.

The finance team at the Church is so much more than just the Treasurer. In the days before Covid the Sunday counting team consisting of the Howat family, Sandra Fleming and Susan Edwards performed diligent work immediately after the service. Currently we require a much-reduced number but Susan banks monies faithfully during the ensuing week. Susan has also been diligent in negotiating the furlough monies in respect of Karen our cleaning lady.

Carol Barter links with HMRC to claim monies under the gift aid scheme. These amount to many thousands of pounds. Our claims are only met as a result of fastidious work on her spreadsheets and meticulous care with Gift Aid declarations - so thanks to Carol.

I will end, as probably every treasurer ends, especially in these troubled times, by asking that we all consider our givings and where possible dig a little deeper.

Alasdair Shaw



**Could you give the Church a Christmas gift?
Any donation £5, £10, £20 in these difficult
times very welcome.**

Account Blairgowrie Parish Church 00817033 sort code 80-05-68



Stronger, Safer, Together – 2nd Blairgowrie Boys' Brigade Company Plans to Restart

It has been a challenging year so far for the boys who are members of the 2nd Blairgowrie Company. Face-to-face BB activities have been suspended since March, meaning that several key events and activities such as awards and display nights have been missed.

2nd Blairgowrie hasn't allowed Coronavirus to bring their activities to a complete standstill, however. The Company's leaders have now put into place their framework for returning to face-to-face activities and have a thorough roadmap laid out for its return to face-to-face activities, with the main emphasis on safety for everyone.

The Junior Section, Anchor boys and all the Leaders were all excited to be back on November 20th. Whilst Anchor Boys and Junior Section have returned, unfortunately, our Company Section will not be returning this session. This is primarily due to Officer shortage and the current restrictions surrounding over 12s.



Tribute to Bruce Dow

Retiring as BB Captain after nearly 20 yrs. by Andy Davidson former BB

I didn't have the easiest time in my adolescence. Going to a private school, I felt a lot of pressure from my parents to do well in my exams and I often had trouble fitting in with the other kids. Often, I found myself at the receiving end of all kinds of abuse, both physical and mental. But every Friday night in Blairgowrie, I always had the Boys Brigade to look forward to. A place that allowed me to escape from the difficulties of school, to be myself with no fear of judgment and have a place to belong with likeminded guys.



Daniel Dow Left with his President's award, grandfather Kenny, brother Callum and Bruce

I started 2nd Blairgowrie BB Company Section in 2005, the two captains were Bob Ellis and Bruce Dow. The pair had their own distinct styles of leadership, and nailed the 'Good Cop/Bad Cop' routine to a tee. Over time, Bruce took the mantle of the main captain of the Company and has inspired myself and the other boys I attended with and countless other boys who have joined and left the ranks of the Boys' Brigade ever since.

Bruce's journey in the Boys Brigade started in Canada at the age of six and continued when he moved to Scotland in 1982.

On completing his time as a boy at age 18 and having achieved the President's Badge, he became a Staff Sergeant and an Officer under Captain Sandy Thomson. Following Mr Thomson's retirement in the early 2000's Bruce took over as Company Captain.

My time in the company section was spent with a very eclectic group of lads who came from many different backgrounds, but under Bruce's guidance, we came to learn the values of obedience, discipline, self-respect. These were taught through marching, giving us balance and coordination and responding to commands, subjects that are not in a school curriculum.

In many ways, a lot of Bruce's work as captain was about providing boys with an education and a set of values for life. This was through scripture readings or lessons on necessary life skills, like budgeting and understanding taxes. Not every boy attending the BBs may have come from a background that taught these skills, and for them, Bruce and other leaders Bob Ellis, Roddy Donaldson, Callum Morrison and Ross Kemp were invaluable.

From 2012 - 2013, Bruce worked with myself, Scott Scrimgeour and Douglas Munro to help us achieve our Queen's Badge, the highest honour a boy can achieve in the Boys' Brigade. We were encouraged to take part in activities we loved, help a community organisation and with the younger BB's to achieve this honour. We assisted with the Company's Anchor Boys, helped at the Emmaus Road Christian Bookshop and taking part in curling, a game I have come to love. After a training course at Carronvale House, Scott, Douglas and I received our Queen's Badge from Rev Harry Mowbray in the Church.

The Queen's badge was reintroduced by Bruce after a 20-year break and I am proud to be one of the first boys to receive the badge and since then 15 boys in the company have received the award.

Throughout my time at Boys' Brigade, Bruce was always someone I could turn to and look up to, on the Friday nights, at the summer camps and at our Queen's Badge ceremony. He has always stood firmly for the Company's Motto of the teaching of obedience, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

Admittedly, in the years since I have left the Boys' Brigade, I have found myself struggling to maintain the motto on more than one occasion, and in this most eventful year of 2020, my anchor's ability to hold in the straits of fear has been tested again and again. But when I am struggling, I think back to my time at the Boys' Brigade and the lessons from Bruce and I know that no matter what life throws at me, I remain sure and steadfast.

LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS



She knew that this Christmas was going to be different. As she sat in her favourite armchair, she thought back over the Christmases that she had particularly enjoyed.

There was the one when Santa had brought her that special doll she had asked for. The one that her friend Susan had got for her birthday the previous October. She had to admit that she had been a tiny bit jealous of Susan getting the doll that she had always wanted and how delighted she was when Santa had brought her a similar doll that very Christmas. She felt that she had deserved it. After all she had been good for most of the year - apart from the times that Susan had got her into trouble for talking and giggling in class.

She had known Susan most of her life. She had been her bridesmaid and was known as Auntie Susan by her children, and she had been there for her when her beloved husband George had passed away.

She wondered what Susan was doing now. Was she spending Christmas with her family? It had been such a silly argument over nothing. She could not even remember what had caused that rift almost nine months ago. But it had resulted in them not speaking. She had seen Susan in town recently but had pointedly ignored her. She was not going to be the one to apologise first. Her pride would not let her. She rapidly dismissed any thoughts of Susan. She had not even sent a Christmas card!

I am only going to think happy thoughts, she decided. She recalled the happy memories of George and the wonderful times they had spent together. The joy of watching their three children opening their gifts from Santa. She wondered if they were enjoying doing the same thing with their own children today.

Her eyes alighted on the small tree that she had put up. It was tiny compared to the one that they had when the family were still living there. She gazed at the presents that lay beneath it. She hoped that the family would collect them soon, when they did not have so much to do. If she was lucky, she might get a phone call from one of them.

But as the hours ticked away, she hoped that perhaps tomorrow someone might ring. Suddenly her thoughts were interrupted by the sound of the phone ringing. Her first response was:

‘Someone is trying to sell me something I don’t want. Will they never give up, even on Christmas Day?’

Slowly and with some trepidation she lifted the receiver. She recognised the voice at the other end.

‘Hello Fiona. Look, I’m really sorry about our little argument. I am just phoning you up to see whether or not you’re free to have a late Christmas dinner with Gerald and me tomorrow. That is if you’re not doing something more interesting instead?’

Contributed by Ian McLachan





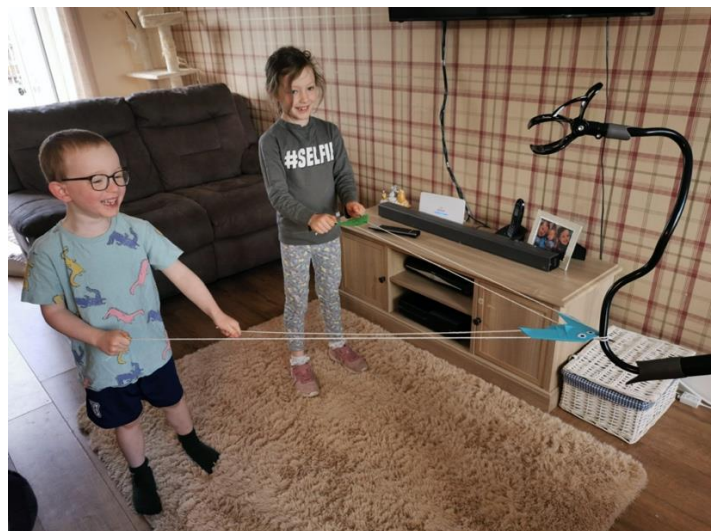
Messy Church had hoped to hold an outdoor meeting in September but Covid restrictions didn't allow groups to meet together. Let's hope when the weather improves next year and the restrictions are eased, we can all meet together and have some Messy fun.

Before then Messy Church and Sunday School are going to hold a Zoom meeting on the 12th December at 3.00pm. This will have the children making a Christmas craft and playing online party games. Before the Zoom call a Messy Church @

Home bag will be delivered to each home.

Some of the things we have done this year.

L-R Sophia with her locust, Cara making her racing frog, Lewis with his birthday cake for Pentecost, Cara and Olivia racing their frogs and Eva and Innes with theirs and George making Joshua's trumpet.





Mary's Meals in the area need to raise £6,000 each year to supply meals to Kankhunkwe School in Northern territory of Malawi. Fortunately, the ceilidh in January raised almost £3,000, so the task in lockdown was to raise another £3,000. Through the initiatives of supporters, the group are close to raising that sum and you can help. Until the end of January the government are offering to match any donations in the "Double the Love" promotion.

Little Tastes of Love, is a recipe book made up of favourites for a minimum donation of £2 and can be purchased along with other items for sale by emailing marysmeals@gmail.com or bought at the Nest Craft shop at the Wellmeadow.

Despite the pandemic work has been expanded throughout the world and 1.6 million children have been fed even with schools closed. Food had to be collected from school and taken home where home schooling took place.

Next year if Covid persists the group are planning Afternoon teas delivered to your door, more information on Mary's Meals Blair Facebook page on that a lot of teas will need to be sold to make up for the cancelled ceilidh which should have been held in January.

Can You Show Me the Way to Bethlehem?

"Can you show me the way to Bethlehem?" That is what we are celebrating at this time - a journey. A journey full of happiness, expectation, hope and love and, yet, also full of frustrations, unfilled dreams and hopes not realised. Worries, tensions and "why did this have to happen to me!" Happiness, frustrations, hope, tension.

The whole point of the Advent season is to move us to think more deeply about the implications of the birth of Jesus. It is not just a yearly ritual. It is a yearly pilgrimage - a pilgrimage of the soul. A journey over which we yearn - we want to take others on the journey with us. It is a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As part of this preparation, we organise food and gifts to share with others. But it is also a time of spiritual preparation. As we make the practical preparations, we also make our spiritual preparations.

When we hear people say "It's only a time for children" or "It's all just one big hassle", or "I'll be glad when it is all over", we need to reply "It all depends on your vision!"

The story is told of a beautiful mountain which takes eight hours to climb but the views are spectacular and well worth the arduous climb. However, these days you can reach the top by funicular railway in a matter of minutes. This, of course, resulted in missing out on seeing many of the amazing views. We were too intent on marvelling at the railway! Part of the thinking and planning of the vision that lay ahead had been lost. The beauty right under our noses may as well not have been there!

Surely it is up to us as Christians who profess to have captured the vision, to try to broaden the view of what others might see. And what a vision! Those of us who have been given the encouragement to think in terms which are spiritual, who believe in the faith journey and of the need to dream dreams and to have glorious visions, have an important role in helping to put Advent where it really belongs. The Advent journey is not an easy one, it never has been and never will be. However, it is the road to love, joy and inner peace. We can show the way to Bethlehem. It is up to us!

Mary Heggie

Sunday School

It is some time since we were last together in Sunday School hopefully, we will be back together soon for more Bible stories activities and fun.

Wishing everyone a Joyful Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in the New Year

Beth, Pamela and Isobel.

Creche

As services have been curtailed due to COVID 19 the creche have not had a call on their services. The young people have been missed and we hope we can see them again soon.

We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes to everyone.

Joy Kearns

Social Club



Unfortunately, our hope that the Social Club would be able to meet up again when our new sessions started again at the beginning of September has not been realised. Let's hope that the news of the vaccine means that sometime in the New Year we will be able to meet up again, as I'm sure everyone is missing getting together to play badminton or bowls and just socialise with others.

Whenever we do start again, we'll look forward to meeting up again with present members and welcoming any new members to our badminton sessions on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings and our bowls session on Friday mornings.

In the meantime, I hope everyone manages to have as good a Christmas as the current restrictions allow and that the New Year brings good news and allows us and others to meet up again.

Anne Byers

Events Group

Covid has certainly caused a fair amount of disruption to our lives. For some it was initially a welcome break from busy schedules, while for others it proved to be more of an inconvenience to their daily lives. Sadly, however, as time has passed by, loneliness and the effects of isolation have emerged.

On a positive note though I know many of you have been busy with various forms of art and crafts, reading and baking.

Our Social Events Committee has been at a standstill and until the Covid situation improves, we are unable to plan any soup lunches or social events for the near future.

Even though our church services take place each Sunday we are unable to offer tea and coffee following morning worship which many of you looked forward to as it gave you a chance to catch up with others.

Christmas is fast approaching, and I trust we will all be given the chance to welcome family into our homes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in the past and look forward to meeting up with you in the not too distant future.

Wishing you all A Very Happy Christmas. Take care and keep safe.

Sandra Fleming

Social Event Committee Convenor



A Christmas Slice from Sandra Fleming

Base

6oz Pl flour
4oz Marg
2oz Soft Brown Sugar

Topping

2 Eggs	1oz SR Flour
3oz Soft Brown Sugar	6 tbs Coconut
5ml Vanilla Essence	1 Generous cup Mincemeat

Method

Cream Marg and Sugar, add flour and press into swiss roll tin. Bake for 10-15 mins @190c or 170 fan.

Mix all the topping ingredients together and spread on top of base. Bake for 30mins.

When cool cut into fingers. Sprinkle with icing sugar.

This is a very easy recipe try it out for Christmas season.

Berry Pickers Ceilidhs

Disappointingly the fund raising coffee morning and the two ceilidhs we had planned for this year were casualties of the pandemic and sadly we don't know when we might again have the pleasure of meeting the hard working Eastern European young people who have helped with the raspberry and strawberry harvests over so many years.

Previous ceilidhs were enjoyed by so many and there is a wonderful story that demonstrates the impact of our hospitality. About 15 years ago, a young teenager studying forestry in the Czech Republic met a lovely young girl from Slovakia at our ceilidhs. They were working at different fruit farms but kept in touch even after returning to their own homes - and their love blossomed. They were married in Slovakia, but later decided to make a new life for themselves here in Scotland. The young man continued his studies over here, eventually running his own forestry business, and his wife took in alterations while caring for their 3 lovely children. If it hadn't been for our ceilidhs, they would never have met! May God continue to bless this young couple.

Moira Somerville

Used Stamps

Despite the increased use of the internet that has reduced Royal Mail deliveries, I am still accepting used stamps and they are most welcome. I give them to World Mission who have an outlet for them, yielding a few thousand pounds per year for different projects all over the world.

Every now and again, I visit the Church hall to look for mail in my pigeonhole so stamps can be left there, or please phone me to collect them from you. Many thanks to everyone who has supported, or continues to support, this initiative.

Moira Somerville: 01250 875240

Knitted Goods

This is an ongoing act of love which even Covid-19 cannot stop. The standard of knitting is so uplifting; I have received baby clothes, hats ranging from premature baby hats to fishermen's beanies, colourful knee rugs, pram blankets, bedcovers and jumpers and cardigans of all sizes. My husband and I pack them in cardboard boxes and deliver them to the Perth Visitors' Centre at Perth Prison, a marvellous facility administered by Crossreach alongside Eventide Homes, HIV Centres, Drug Addiction services and Post Natal Depression services. This means that any items not required by the people who use the Visitors' Centre are passed on to another of Crossreach services.

Over the years we have got to know the dedicated staff who work with the families of prisoners, and our admiration grows with each visit. They produce a Newsletter every quarter and Blairgowrie Parish Church is mentioned regularly, with gratitude for our support in helping these people and their families, through their time in prison and on their return to their homes.

The latest letter says: -

"We would like to thank you for bringing in all of the wonderful knitting to our Centre. Please be assured that all of these lovingly created knitted items will be very gratefully received by our families. We truly value all your time, support and loving care that goes into each item."

If you have wool but are now unable to knit any more, please give me a ring; there is sure to be a willing knitter who could use it. Also, I can collect any finished goods if you contact me.

Many thanks.

Moira Somerville: 01250 875240.

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths of Members

Mrs Hilda Low	Berrydale Road
David Hunter	Beech Manor
Mrs Isabella Niven	Smithfield Avenue
John Walker	Manor Gardens
Mrs Elizabeth Strachan	Lochlands Farm, Rattray
Mrs Evelyn (Wendy) Sorrie,	Isla Road
Mrs Eileen Christie	Moyness Park Drive
Mr Eric Stuart	Hawthorn Cottage, Rattray

Diamond Wedding

Margaret and Ian Strachan celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September.

They were married on September 10th 1960 in St Columba's Presbyterian Church in Worthing, Sussex.

They held a family celebration at home to which all five grandchildren plus partners attended - two of whom came from the South, where they are now working. The young ate out in the garden under a borrowed gazebo.

Best wishes to you both.

Flower Rota



Due to Covid the flower rota has been suspended until further notice.

‘By the tender mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.’

‘The dayspring from on high hath visited us.’

Luke 1.78

Preaching a sermon on Noah recently, Benjamin reminded us how, despite the disaster going on throughout the earth, ‘God remembered Noah’. Why? Surely because of His love and faithfulness to His people.

In this season of Advent Luke 1.78 says how it was when Jesus was born. It was like the dayspring from on high visiting us or as the ESV puts it like a new dawn.

Verse 78 reminds us that although we face trials God remembers us too.

There is an instinct we all share at this time of year; it’s just as if we yearn for the spiritual heart of the season. We long for more than the festive turkey, the gifts and the decorations. We long for a fresh start or a new beginning. After all we’ve been through in recent times we hope for a new day, a new dawn for the human race. God was faithful to Noah. Like Noah we don’t deserve His grace and mercy. Yet we look to Him, for there is none other to whom we can go. He is there for us and we are glad.

May God bless us all as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus.

Marjorie Ferguson

Editor’s Note

During the pandemic it has been decided to limit the number of leaflets that are available therefore we are not doing the normal print run. This reduces the cost of the magazine and contact from one person to another. The magazine can be emailed to anyone and if you would like to receive the magazine in a PDF please email the following address to be added to the list. newsletterblairgowriepc@gmail.com

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine and to Colleen Joslin for her help with the editing and Clifford and Eleanor for the proof reading.

