

InTouch

September 2021

**The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church
Linked with Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church**

The Guild



Guild members were greeted back on Monday, 13th September through an avenue of balloons. Our new Convener, Ann Findlay, welcomed a very pleasing number of members, including two new ladies, and paid tribute to those we have lost over the last year and a half. Pat Burns read an appropriate passage from the Bible and Mary Morrice led us in prayer. Ann welcomed The Reverend John Orr whose subject was "Lights and Bushels" which is the first theme of our three year strategy, "Look Forward in Faith". He encouraged us to think about and share our skills and talents during the pandemic and a lively discussion followed. Some had extended former skills, some had taken up new ones and some did not realise they had any. Coping and getting on with things was what my group decided was their talent!

(Continued on pg 2)



Guild Convener – Ann Findlay



Kirriemuir Parish Church



Cortachy Church



Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church

The Church of Scotland in Angus

Ministers:

John Orr 01575 572610 JOrr@churchofscotland.org.uk

Linda Stevens 07801 192730 LStevens@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Kirriemuir Parish Church, Bank Street, Kirriemuir, Angus, DD8 4BG

Office Open:

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 12noon

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am – 12noon & 2pm – 4pm.

www.gkupc.org

Scottish Charity Number SC015123

www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk Scottish Charity Number SC006317

Caring for God's Creation

Fairtrade Church



(Continued from pg 1) John developed further his photographic skills which are used to illustrate and enhance talks in Church and are enjoyed by viewers of Facebook. He also gave us a glimpse of how our skills and talents could be used to help our six new projects. I thanked John for his very appropriate and encouraging talk. As retiring Convener, I thanked the committee members for their hard work during our first joint year and those who agreed to stay on and help us to keep ticking over during the last difficult months. Ann thanked me for my contribution as Convener before closing the meeting with a prayer. During the afternoon we had a small sales table of Guild Shop goods which proved popular. We finished with tea in our own cups with our own biscuits, adhering to COVID safety precautions, as we had done during the meeting. It was lovely to see everyone face to face again. Plans are being made for a varied programme of meetings which will include a talk by Muriel and Jim Smith about Cuba, a Projects update, a talk by Thrums Vets, a gentle exercise session and a presentation by Pam Cairns - and a Christmas Party. All will be made very welcome
Charlotte Brown (Press Secretary)

Kirriemuir Churches Together

KCT will meet on Wednesday 29th September in the Parish Church small hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Enquiries to brownmalcolmp@gmail.com

Church Office

During the first two weeks in October, the office will only be open
10am – 12noon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

From the Minister

I'm sure I've mentioned it before, but the view from my study window never ceases to provide new sights and delights. I always enjoy watching the changing colours of the land around us, and this time of year is especially eye-catching with the golden harvest fields particularly visible. Of course, thanks to



new crop varieties and improved understanding and techniques, the land around is probably far more productive than it has ever been in the past. The harvest is almost a year-round activity these days. Well, maybe not harvesting, but certainly the work of farming is a year-round activity.

The same could be said of the church. We're certainly aware of the 'big' moments – the high days and holidays – that appear in the Christian calendar, but the 'harvest' is there to be worked at any time of year. Again, perhaps more correctly, the work of the church (which should be about doing God's work) is a year-round activity. The Apostle Paul reminds us, helpfully, that we may all have different roles in that work. Some plant, some nurture, some harvest. Perhaps we all end up doing a little bit of all of those at different times, or perhaps we only encounter that one moment that we feel made a difference. Either way, we can rest in the knowledge that it is really God who is at work through us and so take comfort that even the moments we were unaware of can be used by God.

To stretch our comparison with farming even further, it's probably also true that advances in technology and with a greater understanding of the world, we have many more ways to 'work the fields'. That is not to say that 'old ways' are of no value, but we do need discernment to mix and match the old and the new to ensure we do not miss those moments where God's love can be shared and the story of Jesus can be told.

I wonder, if we could see the church in the same way we see the fields around us, would we see a glorious patchwork of colours and activity? Perhaps, at the moment, we see only the thick mist that so often lies over Strathmore. We also know that it doesn't last and the warmth of the sun soon reveals the variety and beauty once again. I'm sure there's got to be a sermon in that observation too.

John



Shoe Box Appeal 2021

Your kindness and generosity makes such a difference, receiving a shoebox brings so much joy. We are looking ahead to the Shoe Box Appeal 2021 and to helping vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe.

Blythswood trust they will be able to deliver boxes and bags to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Filled shoeboxes and items for the boxes will be gratefully received.



You can download a shoebox checklist [here](#) or you can pick up a copy from the office. Please donate your items to the Parish Church office by Sunday 31st October.

GKUPC Calendar 2022

The 2022 calendar is currently at the printers and will be available to purchase very soon!

The winning photographs were –

1st Naomi Entwistle - Autumn, Caddam Woods

2nd Grace Johnston – Glen Isla

3rd John Paterson – At the going down of the sun

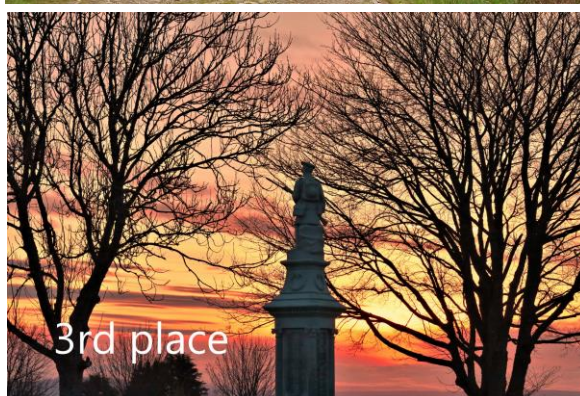
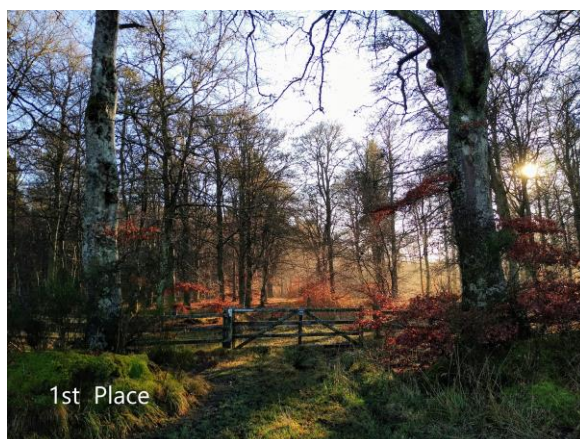
The photographers who also have photos featuring in the calendar are –

Shân Coombs (Cover photo), Brian Forsyth, Neil Houstoun, Malcolm McBeath, Karen McGavock, John Orr, and Michael Visocchi.

We would like to thank everyone who entered the photograph competition and all those who buy calendars each year. The money raised from the calendar goes towards the upkeep of our buildings and enables us to keep our halls open for all the local community groups who use them.

Calendars are still only £5.00 each and will be available to purchase from the Church Office as well as a number of local and area retailers. More information about the calendars will be posted on the GKUPC Facebook group and on our website <https://www.gkupc.org/calendar-2022-1>

(Copyright remains with the photographers)



Deaths

"I am the resurrection and the life"

Margaret Wylie
Andrew Dall
Lindsay Brown
David Gouck
James Archibald
Sheena Youngson
Jean Smith (formerly Storyville)
Helen Murray
Helen Anderson
Elizabeth Laird



Thrums Tots

Thrums Tots has re-opened!
Wednesdays 10am – 11.30am
Thursdays 1pm – 2.30pm term time



Amanda Leeson, Thrums Tots Play Leader

For more info join Thrums Tots Kirriemuir
on Facebook or phone Julia on
01575 572819

GKUPC Church Services

Since the last newsletter back in June, the 1m distancing rule in church services has been relaxed. It is now possible to sit where you wish in the middle pews at the Parish Church but we have kept the 1m distancing in the side pews for those who are more comfortable with a bit of space. We ask that you respect the personal space of those sitting in the side pews. Pew cushions have returned and tea, coffee and covered biscuits are once again being served after the service.

At Cortachy Church, 1m distancing remains in one section of the side pews. Folks can now sit where they wish in the other pews. Tea and coffee have not restarted at the moment.

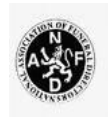
Facemasks are still a requirement during church services.

You are very welcome to come and join us. Services are weekly at 11.15am in the Parish Church. On the first and third Sunday of the month at 11.15am at Cortachy Church and weekly at 10am at Tannadice Church.

WILLIAM LYALL

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After 127 years, the sad decision has been made to disband the 1st Kirriemuir B. B. Company.

Our numbers have been falling over the last two sessions and it was no longer viable to run the Company. I've had discussions with both Scottish Headquarters and National Headquarters about our position and although they came up with various options, the lack of staff and having to find a new Company Captain, it was decided to disband the Company.

I have many happy memories as will all the staff past and present of all the activities we have undertaken with the boys. The weekends at Glen Ogil, Glen Prosen, and latterly at Scott Lodge in Glen Doll with the Junior and Company sections, the trips with the Anchor section, the coffee mornings, delivering Christmas cards. Boys past and present taking part in Battalion competitions and winning many of them. These things took place with the help from parents, friends and members of the congregation and I thank you all.

I have two special people to thank. Linda Stevens and Helen Smith. Linda for all the help and support she has given the Company, and Helen, who has become a very good friend and has been with me through all the ups and downs of the Company, and was an excellent officer with the Anchor Section. Some of her craft ideas had to be seen to be believed. She organised our Christmas craft day when we had the Boys from the 2nd Forfar Company join us, all the ideas for trips with the Anchor Section. We have enjoyed many good laughs especially climbing through a toilet window at Scott Lodge when we locked ourselves out and the window was high up.

On that happy note, I say farewell and a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the Company over the years.

Pat Ritchie
Company Captain



Pat & Helen presenting Fraser McIntosh with the Queen's Badge. Robert Murdie and Agris Fagerson have also received this award



The Rededication of Scott Lodge



Celebrating 135 years of the Boys Brigade



Celebrating 110 years of 1st Kirriemuir Boys' Brigade Company

It is always sad when a much-loved group or activity comes to an end but, as considered elsewhere in our newsletter, there are times and seasons for all things. Pat's 'times and seasons' with the BB have been long and fruitful – 27 years in Kirriemuir and 38 years in total. The influence she has had on many young (and not so young) lives is incalculable and has, I am sure, led to many a fruitful career and contribution to society. So it is with sad hearts that we note the close of this chapter for 1st Kirriemuir BB, but we are grateful to Pat for her dedicated and faithful leadership over these many years. Such service is valued beyond words, and the thanks of the congregation, the many boys and their carers go to Pat for all those years of hard work and dedication.

With grateful thanks, and every blessing, from John and Linda

1st Kirriemuir Boys' Brigade



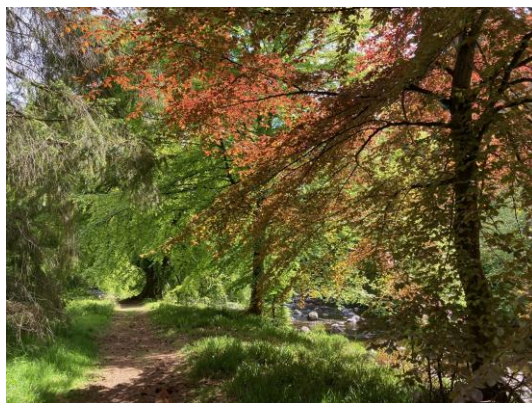
Wildlife Gardens in Autumn – from <https://faithactionfornature.org/>

There are numerous passages in the Bible where God is described as our shelter. In Isaiah 25, God is compared to a tower, a safe place for refugees, a shelter from the storm and a cloud that brings shade.

As the autumn brings the colder weather, now is a good time to look at your garden and your church grounds, and think about making them a place of shelter for wildlife. What birds and animals could take refuge here? What could you add or enhance in order to create more safe places?

As you think about hospitality and the nature that shares your home, you may want to bring some wildlife-friendly techniques to your gardening. Here are some ideas and tasks for the autumn.

- The end of the growing season is a time for clearing away the summer's growth, but avoid being too thorough. Let things die back naturally and keep seed heads in place to provide food for wildlife.
- Autumn is a good time to sow wildflower seeds for the following spring. Existing wildflower meadows should be cut to preserve their diversity.
- Now is the best time of year to prepare new flower beds or vegetable patches for next year. Dig them over and spread compost to be absorbed ready for the spring.
- Rake up leaves into a pile in a quiet corner or under a hedge. Lots of animals, from frogs to hedgehogs, will shelter in a leaf pile over winter. And once it's rotted down, you can spread it as leaf mould to fertilise the soil.



Message from Linda

As you will have read elsewhere in this newsletter, we have a new student working with us. I'm sure, with me, you welcome him and offer your support and encouragement to him during his time with us.

Tim has already begun taking part in services and meeting some of the congregation. Of course, the reason for him being with us is for him to learn, grow, reflect, hone, and develop his ministry.

For us, as a congregation, it is a privilege to have him minister to us. But there is more. When someone new comes into the church it is also a great opportunity for us. It encourages us to reflect on who we are as a congregation and how we do things.

In the words of Robert Burns, "O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us; To see oursels as ithers see us!" It is good for us to do this. I, for one, welcome the chance to reflect with Tim, to ask why do I do things the way I do, what can I do better, what can be improved?

As Paul wrote in his letter to the Colossians, “Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom.” (Colossians 3:16a) May we all do that as we all encourage each other in our own ministries and as we worship and minister as a congregation.

Linda

New Candidate in Training – Tim Podger

Hello Everyone.

Earlier this year I was accepted as a Candidate in Training for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) and Linda has kindly offered to be my Supervisor for my first placement, which will start with yourselves on 5 September. So you have a starter for 10 by the time we meet - as long as you have received your copy of this newsletter and read it - here is a little about my life. I am a Chemical Engineer by training, having graduated from Newcastle University in the 80s. I started out in petrochemicals with ICI and have travelled the world for business and lived in various countries and, up until March last year, worked in sales in the Oil & Gas sector. At that point, my wife, Lynn (who is a retired Primary School teacher) and I worked out that we could retire and had it all planned out – but The Lord had other ideas for me.



The picture you see is of myself and Lynn out and about near our house. We moved here 15 years ago and, although we are in the bounds of Dundee Presbytery, we do live in the countryside of Angus. Lynn and I have two sons, our eldest is based in Glasgow working for Network Rail, and our youngest works ‘down South’ as a ‘Civil Servant’.

In my church life, with my home congregation of Monikie & Newbigging and Murroes & Tealing, I am an Elder, holding the office of Treasurer and Presbytery Elder. In addition to this, I am Depute Clerk for the Presbytery of Dundee, Vice Convenor of the Presbytery Stewardship Committee and part of the Transition Group for proposing the arrangements for the ‘New Presbytery’ (As you may be aware Rev John Orr is also part of this Group).

In my spare time, although there does seem to be less of that these days, I do enjoy gardening (nothing like fresh vegetables from garden to plate) and I am a keen philatelist and have won several international gold medals for my exhibit on the revenue stamps of Singapore. I have also had a book published on this.

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I am looking forward to meeting many of you shortly and getting to know you, as we open up further as we move out of the pandemic. This is an exciting stage of my life and my journey of faith, and I pray that my time with you will be enriching and blessed as I learn with you and from you as we are together.

See you soon, Tim

Presbytery Reform Update

Over the last eighteen months or so, we have been very wrapped up in our local concerns. We've worked hard to ensure as many people as possible remained connected to the worship life of the church, complementing traditional ways of staying in touch with use of new (well, to us anyway) technology. The wider concerns of the Church of Scotland have not gone away though and much has been going on to respond to the General Assembly's call for radical reform necessitated by the difficulties of financial and ministry resourcing.

One aspect of that reform is to draw together the Presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Perth, Dunkeld and Meigle, and Stirling. Although this was hoped to have happened by now, the process ended up being delayed by a year and the anticipated union will happen towards the end of 2022 or at the start of 2023. The purpose of creating larger presbytery blocks is to create a body that should have access to a larger pool of resources. A key motivation in the move is to try and remove some of the administrative burden that falls on congregations and offer some assistance from Presbytery. This is not intended to be a one-sided deal though. In relieving congregations in this way, the intention is to free that congregation to be more focussed on mission. How that happens will be up to each congregation as they are best placed to understand their own resources and challenges.

The needed response to the resourcing concerns is one which will have a more significant and obvious impact on our local congregations. A new 'Presbytery Plan' is being drawn up which works with our allocation of 15.5 paid ministries. That means Angus Presbytery can have 15.5 paid posts, be they ministers of charges or other parish workers. At this moment there are 18 paid posts (16 ministers and 2 parish workers) and 23 charges (with 1 in the process of dissolution). This story is being repeated across all of the parishes and presbyteries in Scotland. Resolving this issue locally and nationally will mean hard decisions will need to be taken.

Of course, one response is simply to tighten our belts and try and get back to what we had been doing eighteen months ago. The other response is to rise to that challenge of being more focussed on mission. It will be no less demanding and will still need hard decisions. Either way, the church of the future will look very different to what it does now. It may not be overstating to say that there really is only one choice if the church is to have a future.

GKUPC Kirk Session Meeting

There will be a Kirk Session meeting on Tuesday 28th September at 7.30pm in the large hall.

We would like to welcome you to our

Harvest Services

**Sunday 17th October
at the Parish Church
and Cortachy Church 11.15am**
We invite you to bring along
gifts of

fresh fruit and vegetables, tinned food, cereals, pasta,
cartons of juice etc which will later be given to the
Food Hub. Please bring fresh produce on Sunday
morning. Dried/tinned food can be handed in to the
office on
Friday morning.

**The Harvest Service at Tannadice will be on Sunday 24th
October 10am**

