

Update



24 April 2022



**OUR VISION: WE ENCOURAGE ALL TO
WORSHIP GOD, FOLLOW CHRIST, SERVE OTHERS**

WORDS AND IMAGES OF EASTER



When trouble comes your soul to try,
You love the friend who
just 'stands by '
Perhaps there's nothing he can do-
The thing is strictly up to you;
For there are troubles all your own,
And paths the soul must tread alone;
Times when love cannot smooth
the road
Nor friendship lift the heavy load,
But just to know you have a friend
Who will 'stand by ' until the end,
Whose sympathy through all
endures,
Whose warm handclasp is
always yours-
It helps, someway, to pull
you through,
Although there's nothing he can do,
And so with fervent heart you cry,
' God bless the friend who
just 'stands by ' !!



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Church of Scotland Scottish Charity Number SC004594

Faith

In recent weeks in church, we have been exploring the five marks of mission, Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. I've found this interesting and thought provoking. It has made me think about faith in general and my own in particular.

Faith? What is faith? I made a list.... here are some examples

Faith in people, faith in myself, faith in my washing machine, faith that the new recipe will turn out well, faith the sun will rise and the sun will set, faith the trees will blossom, faith in God. My list could go on....

My faith, in the religious sense, has always been a part of me. It is rooted in Christianity. I like to worship as an expression of my faith. I love church buildings whether it is a grand cathedral or a simple chapel. When I enter a church whether busy or empty a sense of peace and stillness washes over me. The music whether played on the organ or by a praise band is inspiring. I love hymns both traditional and modern. I feel like I belong.

My early childhood experiences gave me a grounding in faith. As a child in Carnoustie in the 1960s Sunday was an important day. Sunday clothes were worn. Sunday School was an important part of my Sunday and of course in the summer, was the Sunday School Picnic – off on a bus to exotic places like The Guynd! Sunday lunch at home, or very occasionally, a High Tea out somewhere, was a treat. Sunday was the day for visitors or going visiting. Sunday was a different kind of day, a special day for my family.

At Kinloch Primary School the day started with the Lord's Prayer. We either stood up to say it, chanting in unison or sat at our desks, hands clasped. I loved the Bible Stories which were a regular feature of my school days.

When I was wee my Dad, taught me to pray:

*"Jesus tender shepherd hear me,
Bless thy little lamb tonight.
Through the darkness be thou near me,
Keep me safe till morning light."*

He explained to me this was not about being scared of the dark, which I wasn't, but a prayer for dark times. 60 years on I still say that prayer. In my own dark times, my faith has been my sustenance. I like prayer as an expression of my faith whether it is a communal experience or an individual one.

However, to me faith is more than a set of beliefs. It is a trust in a power, a higher power – I call God. I feel this very strongly when I am outside. The everyday beauty I see around me fills me with a sense of awe and wonder and I marvel at God's creation. The vast skies with their ever-changing colours and movement; the continual roll of the sea, trees in their seasonal grandeur, the dark beauty of the night sky, all instil in me a sense of belonging. The scale of these things

Moderator's visit to Carnoustie

The Moderator of the General Assembly will visit Angus Saturday 7th May - Monday 16th May. He will spend one day in Carnoustie.

His theme is "justice", so the programme may feature social justice and/or climate justice projects.

The Moderator is also keen to encourage the Eldership to play their part in the Church going forward. It is anticipated that he will spend a day in each of the Presbytery groupings / clusters to optimise travel.

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE



Dear friends,

As you read this, Holy Week and Easter will have come and gone but as I write this edition of "Musings from the Manse", I am still knee deep in planning and writing for all the extra services of Holy Week and Easter. Although I adore all the sparkle and excitement of Christmas time, Easter time is a very special time, and I am always moved by the sombre, tension-filled journey through Holy Week until at last we rejoice in the resurrection joy that Easter morning brings.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes says, " there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.....a time to weep and a time to laugh. "

Right now, as a congregation, we are moving through one of those tense and sombre times.

As we begin to meet with other congregations to discuss the Presbytery Mission Plan and what it may mean for the congregations in Carnoustie, there will be difficult and painful decisions to be made.

This is a time to face facts. Things cannot be as they have always been. The Presbytery Mission Plan for Angus means that there will be a 35% cut in ministries and 40% of our buildings will close.

This is a time of difficult choices. No parish or congregation or ministry is immune. There will be loss and as with any type of loss or bereavement there will be shock and numbness, anxiety and denial, and even anger.

This is a time to embrace change. Change can feel frightening and threatening. It can feel very much like "a time tear down" and "a time to uproot" but it can also be a time of excitement and a time to try new things, "a time to plant" and "a time to build".

All this of course we wouldn't choose but we have to deal with it.

This is the time.

By the time we get to our Annual Stated meeting (before the end of June) the way ahead for Carnoustie Panbride Church should be a little clearer and I look forward to sharing with you a little of what the future may look like for the churches in our town.

Right now it does indeed feel very much like we are journeying through the dusty tension filled streets of Jerusalem during Holy Week never quite sure what awaits us around the next corner but we know too that we are people of the Resurrection and that although there will be a "time to mourn" , there will be a "time to dance" again. We look forward in faith expecting that God will bring new life to our congregation and to our community by the same mighty power with which he raised Christ from the dead.

Blessings
Annette

Revision of Covid Guidelines

At the time of writing this article the changes in Scottish Government guidelines announced recently have been implemented in so much as a face mask should still be worn on entering, moving around in and leaving the church. It can be removed once you are seated in the pew of your choice. If anyone feels it appropriate to keep wearing a face mask then they are free to do and while social distancing is not being formally applied as in the past please ensure that you give adequate space to those close proximity to you.

As of Sunday 11th April singing without a mask was allowed, there was no requirement to repeat the Lord's prayer quietly, pew cushions were in place in all pews having been appropriately cleaned and sanitised, hymn books and pew bibles were available for use.

Hand sanitiser was still available on entry and exit of the church and halls and provision to ensure good ventilation was still being followed.

The next Scottish Government announcement is planned for 18th April but it will be a few days later before the Church of Scotland Covid team circulate their interpretation for churches to consider. This copy of UPDATE will be printed by then and any further changes will be announced in whatever seems to most appropriate to let members know of any subsequent

Thinking Ahead Group

In the November issue of UPDATE, it was reported that Wi-Fi had been installed in Newton Church and Sunday morning services have been streamed live most Sundays since then. In addition, two Funeral Services have been streamed so that people not able to attend the Church have been able to view and hear the service. Some members have reported that the sound provision when services are streamed is not as good as they would like and this is something for future consideration.

Extending the Wi-Fi provision to the Office and Halls did not proceed as planned by installing plug in boosters. The decision was taken therefore to hard wire data cabling to these places. Cost of this was approved by the Congregational Board and that has now been completed and Wi-Fi connections via a guest password is now working well as was evidenced when George Gordon gave a talk recently to the Friendship Circle about Bagpipes.

With the focus on the Wi-Fi installation we **have** not made as much progress on the revision of our WEB site as we had planned but we are now close to getting the draft of the new look pages and then arranging a training session so that making changes to and updating the content is a much more manageable job than it has been in the past.

It is intended that, while the major tasks of installing new technology into Newton Church, the Church Office and our suite of Halls and overhauling our WEB pages is close to being achieved the Group will continue to meet and consider in which ways we can further enhance the sound and vision of both live and streamed services.

Five Marks of Mission

In the last edition of UPDATE there was an introduction to the Five Marks of Mission which will be very prominent aspects of church life in the years ahead.

This article, as was the first, has been prepared by using the series of articles on the subject in Life and Work written by Thomas Baldwin, Deputy Editor of the magazine. The Minister has also been preaching on the Marks of Mission during the season of Lent.

The second of the five Marks is "To teach, baptise and nurture new believers." That is after all what Jesus told his followers to do. It is also unarguable that the context that the church is working in is discouraging to say the least with the majority of Scots now saying that they are not religious.

There are however churches that are bucking this trend. It is also well known that during the Covid lockdowns there were regularly more people tuning into services on the internet/social media than regular attenders at church.

Social media such as Facebook and You Tube are now a stable part of life for many people and by installing Wi-Fi in the church and halls enhances our ability to live stream services and create another platform to reach non-members/non-believers to hear and learn about the beliefs of the church.

Attracting new members is, after all, about relationship building as well as telling people what you can do for them. We have to listen to them and find out what they have to offer. Showing people that we are listening to them, value their opinion and their input and thank them when we get an idea which can benefit others in the community.

To attract new members we, church members, have to get out of our "Christian bubble" and talk to non-Christian about our faith. It is all about creating stepping stones, making the path a bit more clearly signposted. Evidence shows that nurturing new believers takes time and while it might feel like slow progress to begin with once there is some progress that can become a momentum of its own.

If we do not try to do something about arresting the decline in membership the not too distant future is clear to see. We have to take this Mark of Mission on board to provide a more secure

A Poem

The 21st of March was World Poetry Day. The poem below is one of the favourites of a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Come to the Edge by Christopher Logue

Come to the edge,
We might fall.
Come to the edge,
It's too high.
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came,
And he pushed,
And they flew.

Who is the 'he'?

A father teaching a child to dive into a pool.

Or

A saviour teaching the doubtful to take that great, troubling, exhilarating step into the unknown, to be upheld by the invisible of the air, to dip and to fly into an imaginative future that is already held in the hands of an ever present God.

The changing church may well take us to the Edge – will we have the courage to fly?

Help us to deal with Disruption, Changing, Transforming

Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation
or shadow due to change,
thank You
for the eternity of Your love
and the constancy of Your purpose.
Enable us to adapt
to a world with virus variants,
climate change
and millions of migrant people
desperate for sanctuary and inclusion.
Empower us to act
for a world where children
are safe and nurtured,
where all have access to a
home, an education
and a living wage.
Father of lights,
may we embody change
for a brighter, better world.

Jesus Christ
the same yesterday
today and forever,
thank You
for saving us from sin and wilfulness.
Enable us to adapt
to a church structure
that is changing shape
and whose walls are crumbling
but whose Head and Foundation Stone
remain unchanged.

Empower us as members
of the body of Christ
charged with good news
to walk humbly alongside,
to love tenderly
and to act justly towards
the poor, the outcast and the powerless
and all whom You came to save.
Jesus Christ
the same yesterday,
today and forever,
Your mission, our mission
has not changed.

Transforming Spirit,
who makes us a new creation in Christ,
the old has passed away
and behold, the new has come.
Inspire and encourage those
who are Your change-makers.
Give hope and courage to those
who fear change.
Bless with faith and strength
those for whom change
has meant deep loss.
Transforming God,
in Father, Son and Spirit,
recreate us in Your love
and make us fit for Your purpose
in the world.

Amen.

Needles and Pins Group

The Group is starting back again on Tuesday, 19th April at 10.30 in the Session Room at Newton Church. We look forward to seeing our old friends again and hopefully get some new members to the group. Anyone interested in hobbies or crafts would be especially welcomed as we could do with some fresh ideas for our stall at any future fundraising event. We plan to meet on the first and third Tuesday morning. More information from me on 853919.

Men's Breakfast

The men's breakfast resumed on 8th April in Panbride Hall and was enjoyed by those present. Good food, good company and conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. It is planned for this to be a regular event. Look out for announcement of future dates.

JAFFA

JAFFA Jesus and fun for all

Our numbers are still low, but our lovely young folk have been meeting from 11-12 on the first and third Sunday of each month, engaging in craft activities, games and discussion. Our focus is on faith in action - caring for others and ourselves and for our world. We would love to welcome more S1-S6 young people.

We have been talking about the terrible difficulties the Ukrainian refugees are facing and have been looking at the vital, humanitarian input of the Red Cross and other organisations. We decided we would try to raise some funds to support this important work and started by holding a mini sale of cupcakes on 6th March at the after church coffee gathering. We were amazed that this small venture raised £70. Thank you to everyone involved for your very kind support and much appreciated encouragement.

Our next fundraiser for Ukraine is our **Book, DVD and CD sale on Saturday 30th April from 9-2 in the Co-op, Carnoustie High Street.** We have lots to choose from so please come and have a look. If you have any books, DVDs or CDs you wish to donate please phone 854944 to arrange collection.

We also plan to hold a Plant Sale in May.
Susan and Janie

Fog Squad

Last term we enjoyed exploring Easter by making Easter baskets and decorating egg decorations. We also celebrated Mother's Day by making cards and gifting flowers.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Easter in the manse garden with our annual Egg Rolling service. The weather was ideal and it was very encouraging to have around 50 adults members of JAFFA and members of the Fog Squad enjoying this traditional service to start Easter

Creche

Creche facilities are again available and will be provided on an as and when required basis. It would be appreciated if parents who would like to make use of this facility contact June Black whose telephone number is in the Church Directory on the back page of this issue of UPDATE

Friendship Circle

Our meetings have continued with, on 1st March, a presentation on the Association of Men's Sheds, for retired men (and women) to enjoy activities together, from its inception in Australia to a worldwide organisation today. Examples of some of their completed projects were shown.

The meeting on 15th March had Susan reviving Musical Memories and on 5th April, George Gordon gave a very interesting demonstration on the workings of the Traditional Highland Bagpipes.

The final meeting on 19th April will include a short review and discussion with the Circle members to enable a programme to be prepared for when meetings begin again in the Autumn. This will be followed by fun activities.

Christian Aid Week—15th to 21st May

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.

The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children.

And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe.

Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope.

While there will not be a door to door collection for Christian Aid this year envelopes to make a donation will be available at the Church Door from 8th May to 29th May. If you would like to make a donation but unable to get an envelope at the church you can contact Walter Ruark and he will get an envelope to you. His contact details are in the Church Directory on the back page of this issue of UPDATE



Fundraising

As cases of the virus are still high, it has been decided to wait until May to have a committee meeting to hopefully arrange future events. Anything to take place in between issues of Update will be announced via a pulpit announcement.

Tea and Coffee after Morning service



Tea and Coffee are now being served after the Sunday service. I was planning to start a rota again and would be grateful if anyone who was on the previous rota would let me know if they are available to help. If anyone is interested in joining the team could they could also please let me know on 852088.

May I take this opportunity to thank all who have helped with the tea's and coffee's at any time

Congregational Register

Deaths:

Frances McIntosh - 11 February 2022

Judith Findlater - 26 February 2022

Joan Niven - 2 March 2022*

Elizabeth Wallace - 21 March 2022*

*Member of congregation



Flower Rota—2022

May

1st Dorothy Blacklaws
 8th Val Nicoll
 15th Dorothy McCallum 22nd
 Gill Manson
 29th Kathleen Fulton

June

5th Susanne Fleming
 12th Janice Jackson
 Sheila Davidson
 19th Ann Howlett
 26th Nancy Don

July

3rd Lyn Ross
 10th Joanna Stout

A Reminder

If you change your address please let either the Minister, your Elder or the Church Secretary know so that the Congregational Roll can be kept up to date. Telling us of any change to landline or mobile phone number or e-mail address is just as important.

Thank you

Update

The scheduled date for the next issue of UPDATE is 26 June 2022

Large print copies are printed for each issue. If this would be helpful to you please let me know and arrangements will be made to deliver a copy to you.

If you would like to change to an e-mail copy please send me an e-mail (dmct1@btinternet.com) and arrangements will be made to send future issues by e-mail.

Moment for Meditation

