

CARNOUSTIE PANBRIDE CHURCH

UPDATE 26th FEBRUARY 2023



There are references on page 2 & 3 to snow drops - that is a sure sign spring is approaching. Easter is also approaching and details of Holy Week services are set out below



HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2023

Palm Sunday 2nd April

11.00am Morning Worship in Newton Church
7.00pm St Anne's Church

Monday 3rd April – Friday 7th April

10.15am Short Service of Reflection in Panbride Hall,
Arbroath Road

Monday 3rd April

7.00pm Barry Parish Church

Tuesday 4th April

7.00pm Erskine UF Church

Wednesday 5th April

7.00pm Carnoustie Church

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.00pm Holy Rood Church Agape Service

Good Friday 7th April

11.00am Walk of Witness from Newton Church to Holy Rood Church
12noon Holy Rood Church Shared Service
7.00pm Carnoustie Baptist Church

Easter Day Sunday 9th April

6.15am Sunrise Service meet at
Leisure Centre Car Park
8.30am Early Morning Service Carnoustie Panbride
Manse Gardens with Easter Egg Hunt/Rolling and breakfast in
Panbride Hall
11.00am Morning Worship in Newton Church



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Church of Scotland Scottish Charity Number SC004594





Musings from the Manse - February 2023

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

As I write this letter, it feels like early spring outside my window. It is not too cold today and the birds are chirping away. There are beautiful snowdrops in the manse garden.

January which seemed like the longest month ever is, at last, behind us. January is a difficult month for most of us because of the cold weather and the dark nights.

The Christmas holidays are over and it is a long time until the summer. So, it is no wonder some of us feel a bit blue in January. In fact, the third Monday in January is considered the most depressing day in the calendar and has been named "Blue Monday".

As you may know, I love the cinema and just after Christmas, George and I went to see a new release, A Man called Otto starring Tom Hanks.

Otto is a 63 year old man who has just retired and at the beginning of the film as we see him complaining about the neighbours we get the feeling he is just another grumpy old man. However, Otto's melancholy goes much deeper than that. As the film progresses, we see that Otto is fed up with life. His wife is dead, he has no children, and life seems to hold no joy or purpose anymore. And Otto has several attempts at ending his life.

During the film we get a glimpse of who Otto used to be. He was a man popular with his neighbours and well respected and a beloved member of his community. However, life has changed Otto and now he is a bitter man with a short fuse.

However, a new family moves into the street and it leads to an unlikely friendship that turns Otto's world around. I won't spoil the film for you in case you want to go and see it but what happens is that this curmudgeon of a man is loved back into life.

There are so many people in our community who feel just like Otto - lonely, forgotten, hopeless. And this film reminded me of just how important it is for us to be there for one another.

God has made us for relationship with him but also with each other. And we have seen that in our worship recently as we have looked at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry and how he gathered his disciples around him and went out to the people to teach and preach and heal.

However, some of us find living as part of a community difficult especially if we prefer our own company. But we are not meant to cope all by ourselves in all the difficult, dark days of life.

Do go and see "A Man called Otto" if you get the chance. It is a film that will tug at your heart strings as well as bring a smile to your lips.

Blessings, Annette

Moment for Meditation



Congregational Register

Deaths:

Gloria Mitchell - 14/12/2022*
 Marianne (Sheilla) Burns - 27/12/2022
 Elsie McWalter - 3/01/2023*
 William (Bill) Law - 12/01/2023*

*Member of congregation

New Member:

Mrs Eileen Welsh (District 3)

encouraging; worshipping; following; serving

CHANGING SEASONS

Change happens whether we like it or not. There are changes in the wider world which often make us feel powerless for we have no control over these changes. Change happens closer to home; in our town, in our church community and our personal circumstances. We have to learn to adapt to these changes, some of which are welcome, some of which are forced upon us. The only certainty is that things don't stay the same. Yet, in these changing times there is the certainty of our changing seasons which, to me, bring a sense of comfort and security.

Over winter the garden has been dormant. The faded grass carpet remains unrumpled as it was when it received its last cut. The borders display no shafts of colour but differing shades of brown as old plants and withered stalks crumple into the dark earth. The skeletal trees stand guard and still the occasional leaf rustles and falls adding to the mulchy pile below. All is quiet as the birds shelter and coo down from the cold. Yet, this will change as the days lengthen and the growing season begins.

During the sleepy winter time we have been blessed with stunning sunrises and sunsets. Late afternoon and the sun begins to dip into a fiery orange orb which dazzles with rays of light piercing the sky. Later, across the sky rosy finger tips streak through the clouds sending tendrils in all directions. The whole sky becomes infused with soft colour which wafts above the blanket which will soon cover the darkness. Yet this too will change as the days lengthen and the nights shorten.

Now, change is afoot. Although there may yet be winter storms and frosts to come the deep darkness of winter has passed. In the countryside fields of brown are giving way to a hint of green and soon there will be a patchwork of colour bringing vibrancy to us. The hedgerows so long dormant and dull are now tinged with yellow as the gorse prepares to bloom. The scrubby roadsides will be transformed into a riot of colour.

The garden is changing. Once quiet and slumbering it's a hubbub of noise as birds busy about. Scurrying under the bushes, darting from shrub to shrub, they chatter incessantly. The scrubby brown earth is being disturbed by green shoots as they poke their way through. In their corner the snowdrops have blossomed. These tiny flowers are such harbingers of hope. Nestled down in clumps they bloom in their pristine whiteness. Beautifully crafted, these tiny flowers are suspended from their slim, green stem. They dance gently and stand upright regardless of the weather. Yet, these fragile looking white drops are sturdy and strong. Huddled together they will survive the storms and frosts. They are resilient and have a hidden strength to their gentle beauty. Year upon year they bloom. They do not change; they are secure in their place. These first snowdrops never fail to fill me with a sense of awe and wonder.

Overhead now, the wild geese are calling again. Some coming home, others leaving for their known destinations. Their routes are familiar and well-travelled and they do not change. Despite storms and hidden dangers, they do not veer off course. The long skeins stretch across the sky with their beating wings moving in time to an unknown rhythm. The geese cry evocatively and I listen in wonder.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To every *thing* there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

I think the snowdrops and geese know this.

Gillian Cook

The Divine Dusters

The cleaning teams have been busy keeping our buildings clean and safe for the congregation. I am always looking for new team members or for the reserve list. If you would like to add your name to my list please get in touch. It's not too onerous a task. Each team cleans every 5 weeks and takes about an hour, It's a really worthwhile job as we are saving the congregation employing a weekly cleaner.

Pat Taylor

JAFFA REPORT

We continue to meet on the first and third Sunday morning of each month at 11.00am. We would love to welcome more young people of senior school age to join any of our sessions.

Cara and Krishnan enjoy their involvement in church activities. They were both very disappointed that illness prevented them from participating in the Christmas Nativity Service. We were delighted that Jai came to help us when we were decorating the church windowsills for Christmas and bravely took over Krishnan's planned church reading at the last minute.

We are delighted that the bulbs, pansies and primulas which Cara and Krishnan planted in the church courtyard garden in Autumn are doing well. We plan to renovate the bird feeder and garden ornaments with leftover rust remover and paint once the weather is suitable and will also be sowing seeds to produce summer bedding plants for the containers. In the meantime, discussions, planning a fun outing and playing games such as bible story Pictionary have been keeping us busy.

Thank you for continuing to support JAFFA through your prayers and encouragement.

Susan and Janie

F.O.G Squad

We are continuing to explore stories of the Bible through different fun activities. Here is an example of mazes we made after hearing the 'Jesus is Lost' story.



WELCOME

If you have not already noticed you will see from the back page that DWK Outdoor Living have made a donation towards the cost of producing UPDATE.

We have had an association with DWK Business Machines for 30 years and we are delighted to welcome them in this new association and we hope that their New business is successful.

DMT.

Friendship Circle

After a wonderful Christmas concert by the Monifieth singers on 6th December followed by Christmas Afternoon Tea and games on 20th December, we have resumed our quest to gain an insight into the positive input of organisations and individuals at work in our community.

Penumbra told us about their work in supporting those with mental health concerns in January and in February we are looking forward to talks from Angus Citizen Advocacy and the Lord Lieutenant of Angus, Mrs Pat Sawers.

The Panbride Friendship Circle meets in the Panbride Hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 2.00 – 3.30pm. We enjoy tea/coffee and a chat after an interesting talk.

Everyone is welcome to join us either regularly or just to hear specific speakers.

Susan Hamill



Flamingo Card Brochures

I now have the new brochures. There is a nice selection of new cards and paper. If anyone would like a brochure you can see me after the morning service or by phoning me and I can deliver one to you. (853919). As usual, 10% of total sales go to church funds.

Pat Taylor



Flower Rota—2023

February

- 5th Sheena Ruark
 12th Allan and Joyce Brown
 19th George and Annette
 Gordon
 26th Jean Granger

March

- 5th Marion Palmer
 Dougal Grant
 12th Karen Penrose
 19th Pat Sawers
 26th Lesley Thomson

April

- 2nd Joan Davidson
 9th Beth Lee Smith
 16th June Black
 Susan Hamill
 23rd Rosanne Porter
 30th Dorothy Blacklaws

May

- 7th Val Nicoll
 14th Dorothy McCallum

The Spirit of Robbie Burns

This production written by church member Robbie Murray and produced by James Hutcheson and was presented in Newton Church on the evening of 5th February by the cast who had taken part at performances at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2022

The cast comprised of experienced amateur actors in authentic period costumes of the period and portrayed, in 3 Acts, the life of Robert Burns' songs, poetry and some dialogue from manuscripts representing his time in Ayrshire, Edinburgh and Dumfries

The event raised £470 for Church Funds.

Fundraising Report

By the time you are reading this copy of Update, we will have held a Coffee/pancake morning on 25th February. The total raised will be reported in the next issue of Update.

At this point in time there are no further events arranged.

Helen Harley

Needles and Pins

Our group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, in the Session Room, Newton Church at 10.30. New members would be made very welcome.

We are busy making items for our stall at the next Pancake Morning on the 25th February. Over the winter we have made and distributed knee rugs to the housebound. We have made lots of knitted and some crocheted rugs which have been well received by the recipients.

Thank you to all who handed in squares and to the lady who joined them together. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from receiving a rug, please get in touch and I can deliver one. (853919)

Pat Taylor

Panbride Musical Memories

We were delighted to welcome some new people with family members who brought them along to our 25th January session. We sang lots of Scottish songs together then enjoyed Scottish tunes from Jock on his mouth organ. After our tea and biscuit break, we sang a wide range of favourite songs with everyone accompanying the songs enthusiastically with their tambourines and maracas.

We meet in Panbride hall on the last Wednesday of the month from 2.00 - 3.30pm and would love more people to come and join the fun. Our sessions are suitable to those with dementia and their carers as well as anyone who would find an afternoon spent singing and chatting over a cup of tea in caring company uplifting. Please phone Susan 854944 for more information.

Susan Hamill

Treasurer's Report

2022 Income & Expenditure

Overall we have generated a surplus of £2,183 over the full year, which is £3,368 higher than budgeted.

Income

Overall income was £88,950 which is £6,599 more than budgeted.

Giving donations were down on budget. This is down to lower than budgeted regular standing order donations. On analysis 2022 actual donations were more in line with 2020 with 2021 looking exceptional. However this lower income was more than offset by higher than budgeted hall lets and unbudgeted additional income from men's breakfast and coffee & chat donations.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure was £87,645 which is £4,110 more than budgeted.

This overspend vs budget was primarily driven by £4,927 more spent on fabric than budgeted which was due to several unforeseen costs such as a new boiler.

2023 Draft budget

Looking ahead our draft budget is to effectively breakeven generating a very small surplus of £70.

Income

I am budgeting £86,482 overall income in 2023 which is slightly lower than 2022 actual income.

The reason for this reduction is that 2022 hall lets benefited in the first half of the year through heavier usage mainly by the Angus Centre for the Performing Arts who are no longer using the hall. I have projected hall let income based on the last 4 months of actual income which is approx. £5000 lower than 2022.

I am projecting regular donations continue at 2022 levels with the exception of the plate which I am forecasting increasing from £5,052 to £6,500. Pre covid the plate average £9,000. In 2022 we still had covid protocols resulting in reduced attendance for much of the first 6 months. I have therefore looked at average plate for the second half of the year and have projected the increase based on this.

Expenditure

I am budgeting £86,412 overall expenditure in 2023 which is slightly lower than 2022.

The main reason for this reduction is that we do not expect fabric expenditure to be as high in 2023 and in 2022.

As many of you will be aware our congregational contributions to the Church of Scotland previously known as "Ministry & Mission" have been replaced by "Giving to Grow". This is calculated differently and in our case has resulted in a slight reduction in our contributions.

We are fortunate that our gas rates are on a fixed rate until spring 2024 and therefore we have yet to see any increases in gas which is primarily used to heat the halls and buildings. Our electricity rates are fixed until October 2023. I have forecast a significant increase at that point however latest indications are that electricity rates have peaked and it may be that the increase is lower than expected.

Thanks

On behalf of the Trustees of your Church I would like to record our appreciation and to say thank you to all those members of the congregation who make a regular donation to the finances of the Church by way of FWO envelopes, monthly standing orders, and annual lump sums or via the open plate.

Thanks also goes to those members who support the various fundraising or other activities with gifts of various items, their time and attendance at the events and the donations they give. Also, to the cleaning teams who save the church expense and not forgetting those who give their time and expertise in other areas.

All of the above add up to a tremendous support of your Church which is of enormous value.

Finally I would like to thank Stan Beattie and Pat Hay for their assistance with the Treasurer duties.

John Gray

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