

# **Church of Scotland Scone & St Martins Parish**



**Church News**

**June/July 2020**

## Parish Register

### Deaths

13 April 2020	Rose Smith, Catmoor Care Home, Scone
21 April 2020	Harry Donaldson, 8 Corrie Place, Scone
7 May 2020	Allison Watt, 17 Rowanbank, Scone
10 May 2020	Ian Cook, 38 Stormont Road, Scone
12 May 2020	Isobel Findlay, Louisebrae Care Home, Perth
14 May 2020	Sheena Lunan, 13 Myrtle Road, Scone
18 May 2020	Ian Wright, Catmoor Care Home, Scone
20 May 2020	David Pringle, Cymbran (formerly Scone)
21 May 2020	Catherine Clark, 2 Woodside Cottage, Bridge of Cally

## Church News

Material for the August edition should be forwarded to the church office (tel 553900; email [sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net](mailto:sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net)) or to the editor Moira Daly ([moiradalyscone54@gmail.com](mailto:moiradalyscone54@gmail.com)) by Thursday July 23 2020. Please send in any items you think will be of interest to the congregation.

**Electronic Version of Church News** – If you would prefer to receive your copy of Church News directly to your inbox, please let the office know or complete the form below and hand it in.

Name .....

Address .....

Email .....

**If you know of anyone who requires a visit from the minister or an elder, please hand in the details at church on Sunday or to the church office.**

## Church Office

**Opening hours:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.15 am to 12 noon

**Address:** Balformo Road, Scone, PH2 6QX

**Contact:** 01738 553900 or email [sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net](mailto:sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net)

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well. It is a while since we were intimating in church that the shaking of hands was not allowed but that you could greet one another with your elbows and that hand and knees were not permitted but bumps-a-daisy was allowed! In recorded history, there cannot be too many examples of congregations being locked up, or locked down. Shored in, they may have been, as traditionally churches have been places people would flee to in times of persecution. Anyway, the state of lockdown was declared and safe distancing, and much more, in order that Covid 19, an enemy to healthy humanity, might be disposed of, once and for all.

Well now, as we appreciate, all states of humanity have been working away at defeat of this enemy, and our over 90's have been leading us by example, having played their part in the last World War, and the brains of our country have been exercised at all levels, and none of us has lost our wits, and battles have been won but the great enemy is still to be overcome. On that level my prayer is, let us "Fight the Good Fight with all our Might"! You will find the words of that hymn in your hymn books. We will notify you the minute we hear that we can open for prayer and meditation and of when we will be open for worship.

Rumour has it that all our buildings require to be deep cleaned before we can open. I would hope and trust that the same regulations and costings for offices and industry would not be applied to churches. To disinfect pews and other surfaces ought not to be a huge task, neither a five figure task. Time will tell. Good common sense must prevail. We cannot take unnecessary risks, that is for sure, but neither can we allow this time to be used to get unnecessary changes made. We will, however, have to safe distance, even when churches are open, and clean all surfaces and spray the air between each diet of worship, and, you will require to sit at two to three metres away from each other. The time of victory will be known, though, and we pray and work towards it. Helpful as virtual reality may be, I know many are missing meeting up with their friends and experiencing the wink of another eye, human contact, the joy of worshipping together at the Kirk, as they are missing, also, the Hub and the Lunches, and the Organisations and Clubs that meet in our premises, the Guild and BB among them.

Whilst in its giving promotion to centrally located worship, there is not a shadow of a doubt that the Church centrally is missing our Offerings. Personally speaking, I should not have thought that the way ahead would be to sell off our buildings to make deficits good. How much would the process cost? How much would the process raise? I would not think that selling off investments would be a good idea either? And as for churches where the goose lays the golden eggs being done away with as churches in poor areas are sustained, from where does such economic argument arise? How many members and how much finance has been lost or raised over the past decades by that argument. But at the end of such rumour and speculation, if the Church of Scotland is to be maintained, it would be so kindly and helpful if you felt able and in a position to send a cheque, or postal order, or to arrange with our Treasurer a bank transfer so that the offerings you have been putting past may be of help now. Be assured of how much your own Parish

Kirk of Scone and St Martins covering too the areas of Balbeggie, Guildtown and Stormontfield appreciates such consideration and we pray and work that soon we will be together again in your Parish Kirk.

Change is a factor in our evolution. We look forward to new experience. The Church is both involved in the larger Community, and gives service. We have many members skilled in practical service and fresh practical service may well be required. The Church pioneered social service, let us not forget, and the pioneering spirit is called for once again, so, let us all give the matter thought. Never mind if it is quite some time since you have been at the Kirk, its doors will unreservedly be open to you. We could do with more volunteers of all ages as we could do with you sharing your ideas and vision. Don't put off to tomorrow what you can commit to, today. We are not a place of stuffiness and care worn, irrespective of age, we are far from it, and we would so long for you to come and truly be one of us. We have plenty room for new talent and fresh expression. To all, we offer our love, caring and support.

In addition to the practical we are involved in the spiritual. Down through the centuries and into today, the church has been at prayer, and in this scientific age prayer is not redundant. Indeed, science and religion need never function at poles apart. If you wish a good read, but it is not a novel, read David Fergusson's book, "Faith and its Critics", published by Oxford University Press. If you wish to pursue the question, "Where is God in a Corona Virus World" pick up a booklet from our Church railings. It is by John Lenox, is a simple read, and is 60 pages long, and it is for free courtesy of a gift from one of our members. Now, personally speaking, when we are allowed to open our churches again, I am happy to have numerous different services at different times and of different styles. I also look forward to Weddings and Baptisms and to Welcoming New Members. There will also be Services of Thanksgiving and Celebration of various kinds. Some may wish to give thanks for a special Anniversary, or for being spared through this difficult time, or for friends and loved ones who have passed on and to mark all that they have meant. We also look forward to Services in the Open Air when the weather is good. The Fiery Cross will go around when all this is about to happen.

My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones during this difficult time. It is amazing what we have managed to achieve though it has been harrowing that families have not been able to be with their loved ones at such a time and that numbers at the grave and at the crematorium have had to be curtailed. Services of Thanksgiving for loved ones lives will be among my top priorities.

It is also a regret that I am not permitted to sit by the bedside of anyone who is ill or visit the homes of the house-bound. The pastoral telephone line has been working well, though. The reasoning for us not having been permitted to enter homes is that we may carry infection or the virus to others, unwittingly, and that would never do.

How good it has been to have contributions from various people to our Scone and St Martins Worship, accessed through the Scone and St Martins Bringing the Community Together website, under the Section, Church News. If you have a computer, would like

to access it but find difficulty, I can email it to you, just ask. A very special thank you to our Boys Brigade Company Section boys who have contributed prayers and have contributed Recipes for our Lockdown Recipe book for Church Funds; they have been super but now are on holiday for the summer.

Well this letter is simply a resume of some of the goings on and current considerations. I hope it has been helpful and that soon we may meet again.

With kind thoughts and every blessing,  
Maudeen, your Parish Minister

It was when we were doing footsy and bumps-a-daisy at the Church door that Lockdown commenced. We were still awaiting the trumpeting of the daffodils and Easter lilies. No Palm Sunday Service or Holy Week Services, and no Service for Easter Day, well, not in Scone or St Martins, though worship was prepared for the website and many I'm sure would remember the significance of the Seasons of Lent and Easter.

I was so glad that the Church bells rang on Easter morning and a big thank you to those who made this possible. It was good to announce Easter Day, the Day of Christ's Resurrection. But Good Friday was not forgotten either or Christ's identification with the deepest agony of suffering and death. He conquered, and faith in his promise that we too will conquer lives on in the circumstances of these times.

How good that on Easter Day, the birds were joining in the Easter chorus. I heard them at Dawn and they were not holding back their Easter cheer! The sun shone! The gardens looked good! And Christian spirit in Scone and St Martins was alive! There seemed to be more daffodils in the gardens this Easter than last, the snowdrops and crocuses lasted longer too, and nature in its splendid array has offered a tonic to many. Tough as it has been for a goodly number of folks, where would we have been had all this happened in the bleak and cold months of the year?

No sooner were the daffodils fading than the primroses appeared. I was delighted to see them along with the apple blossom and plum blossom and then appeared the bluebells. The beech hedge seemed to take longer to leaf but it has now, along with a fine assortment of trees.

One sound I haven't been conscious of is the sound of the brook, testimony to how warm most of the days have been. Much courting has been on going in the manse garden among God's little creatures, nests have been built, eggs have been hatched and new life has been emerging. Squirrels and baby squirrels have been at play. A trinity of ducks flew past into the Churchyard and they were flying so low that the wing of one brushed my head. How blest we are in this part of God's world.

It can't be much fun, though, cooped up, with no garden to enjoy, especially if you can't even get out to the park. Yet how amazingly resilient some of our members have been as they've listened to music, read, put jigsaws together, knitted, and shown an amazing

contentment. You truly have to be congratulated. Our senior members have to be congratulated too. The spirit and spunk of those who have lived through the war years has encouraged us all. I'm sure you're craving an end to all this but keep focussing on the sunshine meantime and also drink plenty; let no one get dehydrated.

Whilst on a sponsored weight loss for Church Funds, as we are unable to have the usual fundraisers at present, I have now lost over 2 stones with six weeks to go. I am looking for as many sponsors as I can get so that the church will know the benefit. Feel free to phone your cousins, neighbours, and friends, and see if you can get a good round robin going that would be of great benefit to the Church.

One of my quirky pastimes when dieting is to read recipe books. I'm not just reading them but making the recipes and freezing them. So long as they are frozen, they are no temptation. I like doing that late on as during the day I am keeping busy with the pastoral phone-calls and other work interests. Ironing has also become a relaxation, and weeding in the garden can guarantee a good night's sleep.

Do you enjoy music? I do and have quite a broad taste from classical to jazz to folk music and the other day, in the early morning I followed an old CD of Acker Bilk, a good recording, with Sounds of the 60's. Some of the songs really had me laughing! One of the most musical renditions was Sandy Shaw singing Puppet on a String. Yet, God deliver us, however good and obedient we are at the moment, from becoming puppets on anyone's string. Don't our various personalities contribute to the world's colour!

Now, have you heard that I am compiling a Lockdown Recipe Book? Tasty recipes are being contributed by our members, lip smacking! Would you be so kind as to write out one or two for me? I'd be hugely appreciative. They will be sold for Church Funds. Send me a recipe for anything you like and have enjoyed during lockdown. Among my books, I have the Castle of Mey recipe book with a foreword by Prince Charles. The nice thing about these recipes is that there is a good mix, such as we would consider making. Shall I write a few personalities and ask them for recipes? Maybe I shall. I also have the Frugal Cookbook sold in aid of Malawi and a church's fish recipe book. Now I mention these simply to give you ideas. I'm not going to pepper the book with my own recipes. Perhaps I shall include a couple of delights from my student days, one called Curry Scramble and the other a tuna bake which I thought tasty enough to serve on clam shells. This was the time of year when we would descend on someone's flat with bags of cherries we poured into a crystal bowl and we all took along a bottle of wine to complement the cherries while we also pretentiously sat and philosophised. Have you done any reminiscing in quiet moments? Have you any memories you would like to share in the next edition of the magazine?

Well now, have you been exercising? I need to walk more! Some confined to the house tell me that they have been using tables and chairs, and that they have been giving a twiddle of the ankle here and a knee jerk there. Do be good to yourselves, though, and no breaking of bones or knocking of joints out of place!

Soon it will be the holiday season. Where shall we go, if not released by then? I guess we could pretend we're pitching tents in the back garden for the children or grandchildren and take to them ourselves! Hopefully, this situation will have eased a little before then. If it has not, we'll be driven by then to much jam making, wine making and gin making, talking of which, you may include cocktail recipes for my Lockdown publication, in addition to all else. Well, I have one further contribution for this magazine before I head off to bake.

Be as good as ever, have such fun as you can, and keep well, knowing that you are loved and appreciated.

Maudeen



## **Telephone Prayer Chain**

A Telephone Prayer Chain is available to support in prayer any person/s in the church or community, or their family or friends whether living here or elsewhere, particularly if urgent prayer is required for matters such as illness, operations or other problems. Phone requests to Lilian at 553651 or, if she is unavailable, Ina at 551607 or Helen at 01821640560. You can write your request on a prayer request slip, sign it or leave it unsigned as you wish, and place it in the Church Prayer box on a Sunday morning.

Lilian Murchison, Prayer Convener

Try Praying – see booklets at all Church sites – feel free to pick one up!

Thy Kingdom Come – hit into the Church website, and the Church of Scotland website – highly recommended.

John Lennox – Where is God in a Coronavirus world? See railings at Churches.

Pentecost: Carefully tie your prayers, prayer requests, poems, readings, hymns of the spirit on to branches of trees, railings around the church. Look out for the colours of the seasons and add your own.

## **Church Calendar**

Due to the current situation, all activities are cancelled until further notice.

## **Big Thank You**

Thank you ever so much to all who are giving valuable assistance through the time of Lockdown. It is good to hear from the elders from time to time and thank you to all who have sponsored me, to date, and who have contributed to the Lockdown Recipe Book.

Thank you for such happy and welcoming response to the pastoral telephone line. It is good to catch up with many of you. Leave a message on the answering phone 01738 551942 if you would like a call.

Thank you to those who call in, knocking on the door and retreating to the hedge for a chat.

Thank you to the bell ringers - Gordon Pirie, Ron Cathro and Stuart Urquhart, who rang the bells on Easter Day and on VE Day.

Thank you to Iain McKinnon for his organisation for VE Day and for helping to ensure we would mark the day in Scone. We thank our bugle player, Harry Cooper and piper, Katie Duthie. Thank you to Stuart Urquhart for ensuring special occasions are marked also in the St Martins part of the parish.

Thank you to our quiet volunteers who are keeping the gardens looking good around our three sanctuaries.

Thank you to all who are making contribution to our services on the web, including elders and BB Boys, Company Section, and to Iain Lamond for his encouragement of the boys. Thank you to our Christian Aid Convener, Peggy, for keeping before us the challenges of those in the developing world.

Thank you to Lilian Murchison and to members of the Prayer Group and Bible Study Group for their support in prayer and study.

Thank you to our Conveners of Committees, and Roll Keeper and Magazine Editor, and Church Secretary for keeping alive and positive in response to the challenges of our times.

Thank you to Ellen Simpson for helpful briefings on St Martin's part of the parish.

Thank you to Mike Moir and to Robin Walker for their invaluable support in the work of Clerkship and Treasurer.

Thank you to each and every one of you for being the person and people you are, despite the real challenges that some of you and your loved ones are going through. Thank you for your faithful expressions and for playing your part in the alive, caring, and spiritual fellowship of Christ in Scone and St Martins.

Maudeen



## **Prayers at this Time**

(Find more on the Church of Scotland website)

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.

**Amen.**

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety,  
For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

## **Depute Session Clerk's Report**

If you are waiting to read my report, go no further as I have nothing to report!!! In this very strange situation in which we find ourselves, the church is now totally reliant on people interacting with one another at a distance and this has meant that the telephone has become the main instrument of communication for most of us – I am sure there are users of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc who would disagree, but we seem to have used our phone more than usual.

The other main means of communication has been meeting people – at the appropriate social distance – when out walking. We have discovered paths around Scone that we didn't know existed prior to the lockdown and we have met many people when out walking, whether on the road walking down to Spar, or in the park or in the many paths in the woods and surrounding areas of Scone. The weather has been wonderful over the past two months and it has been the saviour of the situation in many respects – just imagine if this had been in January and February and we would all have been stuck inside, with little prospect of seeing anybody, even at two metres apart.

The weather has meant that we have been able to enjoy the springtime Scottish countryside at its best. I don't remember ever seeing the broom and the gorse such an intense yellow as this year, and the beautiful shades of green as the leaves begin to unfold and Spring flourishes. It highlights the wonder of creation and I think the pandemic has made us more aware of nature and the countryside, its beauty, especially in these wonderful sunny days, when the Spring flowers blossom. And the difference it has made to the gardens in Scone!!! Hardly a weed in sight. I just wish my grass - I can't really call it a lawn – looked a bit better but moss always seems to win out.

We are now in the first phase of the easing of lockdown and already we have seen examples of people overdoing the coming together. Whilst it is understandable that people want to see their grandchildren and their sons and daughters, the idea, that you can go off to a local beach and not bump into hundreds of other people with the same idea, does seem to me to a bit over the top. And the last thing we need is for the lockdown to be reimposed if the virus gains a foothold once more.

Keep well, keep socially distant and we can look forward to meeting once again in church, hopefully some time in August if all goes well.

Mike Moir, Depute Session Clerk

## **Social Media**

The church has a website, Facebook page and Twitter account. The Facebook page links to the website where weekly services by Rev MacDougall can be found. Daily prayers from the Church of Scotland are also posted along with other relevant information. The Facebook page reached 1,400 people in the last 4 weeks. We must bear in mind that could be one person 1,400 times. We know from the information we receive that this is not the case but no more than that. The Communication team will be able to get more information about website usage as time progresses.

Marian Forgan

## Company Section

As with everything else the BB had to shut down at the end of March. Quite disappointing in that it meant that our annual camp had to be cancelled. Usually a highlight of the session. The weather for once was perfect, usually we get some rain and often we get rain all day on at least one of the days.

It also meant the cancellation of the finals of the National Chess Tournament where our team would have been one of the two representing Scotland. We had high hopes this year. The local chess tournament was also cancelled and Logan is fretting about the loss of the opportunity of 3 in a row.

The BB are producing a weekly activity programme called BBatHOME. 6 events per week. Apart from 4 or 5 boys the uptake has been disappointing. Quite a number of events are family orientated and it was hoped that families would compete amongst themselves and send in results.

One of the events in the early weeks was to write a week of daily prayers. Three boys did this and our minister has included their prayers in her weekly services. Certain boys sent in the recipes they used for certain activities and these have been forwarded to the minister as suggestions for inclusion in her proposed cook book.

Some of the boys have used the programme to complete their credits to get a full set of badges for the session. Well done to them.

BB HQ have said that there should be no meetings until at least 31 August 2020. Not too bad in that we do not usually start back after the summer break until around that time. Hopefully the date will not be put back.

Iain Lamond

## Social & Fund Raising

Unfortunately the Annual Church Fete has had to be postponed due to the current crisis. This is devastating news, as I know all of you in the Parish and surrounding areas look forward to this event every year, which is always a huge fundraiser for the Church.

The coffee morning and the Scottish Night which were to be held later in the year are also in question as we await instruction from the Government.

The Committee are devastated at having to postpone these social events which bring in lots of funds for our churches.

Watch further issues of the magazine for updates, but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anne Lamond, Social & Fund Raising Convener, tel 01738 552262



## **GREETINGS FROM CHRISTIAN AID**

### **Christian Aid wishes you well in these difficult times.**

During the current crisis Christian Aid is helping to supply water and food and is teaching hand washing techniques in countries such as Nigeria. Please remember them in your prayers.

Christian Aid is also helping to change lives by building mud dams in the drought stricken part of Kenya. I would like to share a story with you of how a mud dam can change lives and give hope.

#### How a mud dam can change lives

Florence lives in Kyeng'e village, in a dry part of Kenya. Her community built a dam with the help of ADSE Christian Aid's partner and funded by Christian Aid. The water in the dam is helping her to change her life.

I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. It has helped me to start bee keeping, plant a garden and keep chickens because the water is nearby. Everything in Florence's story is interconnected. With water from the dam. Bees pollinate Florence's flowers and she sells the honey.

In the midst of stories of the climate crisis, we find glimmers of hope that adaptation is possible.

#### A Prayer from Christian Aid

God of all the earth, you saw the land and called it good, yet for so many today, droughts are prolonged, rains delayed and crops failed. Help us to work together with you and all creation to stop this climate crisis. Amen.

Peggy Lamond for Scone and St. Martins Christian Aid committee (07803 015509)

## **Thank You**

I would like to thank all you lovely people for cards, gifts and telephone calls I received after my recent stays in hospital.

Ann Gellatly

We have certainly been going through challenging times. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me recently by phoning, sending cards, flowers, and having socially distanced chats. You know by now that I am no longer Session Clerk. Sadly, my brother died in March and we could not attend his funeral in Surrey. Then I fell over a tree root and broke my arm, needed stitches in my eyebrow and wrecked my glasses! Not a great lockdown but I am on the mend and uplifted by the support of everyone as mentioned above. Needless to say, Derek has risen to the role of carer.

Marian Forgan



## GUILD

The Coronavirus lockdown has meant that all Guild gatherings have had to be cancelled. We are sorry that this has meant an early end to the last session, but we hope to invite some of the speakers to Scone in due course. The government regulations have prevented us from attending a performance at the theatre; and a possible afternoon tea party in June. The committee has yet to meet, but a meeting will be convened as soon as it is practicable.

Renee Riddell, convenor of Perth and Kinross Guilds Together, recently contacted us. It will come as no surprise that their plans have also gone awry. Trips to Crieff for the Summer Gathering and to Auchterarder in August have been called off; and the Annual Gathering at the Caird Hall in September has been cancelled. However, Renee hopes that there can be an Autumn Gathering in the Perth area before the end of this year. Of course we hope to hold meetings of Scone and St Martin's Guild as soon as restrictions are lifted - perhaps in time for autumn!

Meanwhile, we hope everyone is managing to get by, especially those of you who are on your own. We look forward to when we can meet again. For now, take care and may the Good Lord bless us all with His constant love.

With very best wishes to you all  
Margaret Buchan, Guild Secretary

### Children's Story – A Job to Do

A little boy had a job to do. His Daddy was making a cupboard in which to keep his little boy's toys. Daddy got wood, nails, a saw and a hammer. He measured the wood carefully, cut it and nailed the pieces together. "Please!", asked David who was watching. "Can I have a job to do?" "Yes of course!" replied Daddy. "Hold the wood steady while I saw it straight. You can have a try at sawing too. Then you can pick up all these nails and put them in a box." A little girl had a job to do. Mummy was baking cakes for her birthday party. She was nine and her friends had been invited. There were the cakes - all ready to go into the oven! "Please!", asked Elizabeth. "Can I have a job to do?" "Yes of course!", replied Mummy. "Pull up a chair close to the table. Take this bag of nuts and this bag of cherries. Put a nut on each of these cakes and a cherry on each of these other cakes. Have you washed your hands?" One day Father God said to his dear Son, "I have a job for you to do. Go and help all the people who live on earth. Tell them how much I love them. This is how you will do it. You will go as a tiny baby and grow into a big strong man. That is how you will do the special job I have for you". So the Lord Jesus came to earth - the world in which we live. He came to do his very special job, the job for which God sent him.

### Children's Prayer

Busy shops and crowded places, hectic day and night.  
Noisy streets and unknown faces, bustle, sounds and light.  
All exciting, sometimes frightening, town life can be hard,  
But you're with us, caring for us, thank you, Father God.



Anne Lamond

## Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances Receipts for 4 months ended 30 April 2020 (excluding Guild and Clubs)

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2020 £	2019 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Offerings	19,254	23,844
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	3,158	3,215
Donations	370	215
Weddings & funerals	120	270
Hall Lets	5,913	8,012
Contributions from congregational organisations	1,300	950
Fundraising events (net income)	1,024	1,334
Other income (net)	<u>342</u>	<u>211</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>31,481</u></b>	<b><u>38,051</u></b>

### Notes:

- Offerings are down by 19% on last year, largely due to the loss of our Sunday services since mid March.
- Donations include £285 from Rainbows and Brownies.
- Hall lets income has completely ceased since late March.
- The contributions received from organisations were: The Guild £800, the Bellplate Players £300, and the Badminton Club £200.
- Fundraising was from the March Coffee Morning, less a refund relating to last year.
- In May, we have received our first grant under the Government Job Retention Scheme (recouping 80% of the pay costs of our furloughed staff). The Church Secretary, Roxy Clark, continues to work from home.

## Church Finances

We are now in the midst of a very difficult period for Church finances. Our deficit for January to April in unrestricted funds is nearly £8,000. I expect that by the end of July, the 2020 deficit will have risen towards £20,000. Our bank balances are sufficiently strong to be able to last well beyond July, but the continuing loss into the autumn of income from hall lets, fundraising, and part of our regular offerings will lead to a very big dip in our resources. I will provide updates in future issues of Church News.

Those of the congregation who normally make their offerings in cash through freewill offering envelopes, or the open plate, may wish to consider switching to payment by monthly standing order through your bank. Information on this is available from Margaret Nicol (01738 552232) or Robin Walker (01738 551936). Alternatively, cheques payable to Scone & St Martins Parish Church can be sent to Robin Walker, c/o Scone & St Martins Church, Balforno Road, Scone, PH2 6QU. Many thanks to those of you who have already taken such action.

Thank you again to everyone for your continuing support,  
Robin Walker, Treasurer

After the Iranian revolution life for Christians became increasingly more difficult. The enforced closure of the Iranian Bible Society in November 1990 was another tragedy for the Iranian Christian community. This and other restrictions in Christian communities caused the migration of Iranians from Iran to all around the world leading to a significant diaspora in the world today. With this dose of scattered Iranian Christian refugees it is the goal of the Bible Society to serve these voiceless, oppressed and mostly forgotten Christians with the word of God.

Please pray for safety for those who will be delivering the Bibles to the hands of Iranian Christians around the world. Pray also for the refugees who will be reading God's word. May they be encouraged to practise their faith without experiencing new challenges.

Jim Currie

### **Shortly After Easter The Miraculous Catch of Fish**

Imagine yourself in the boat as one of the Disciples. Listen to the water, the small waves slapping against the wooden hull of the boat. Hear the boat creak with every movement, the shuffle of feet as your companions stretch and change position.

Can you feel the boat rock as they move? There's limited space for seven men with their nets and basket, the sails and oars and all the other equipment they need. After a night's fishing you are cold, sore and tired, your back aching, your knees stiff. You're hungry too.

You sit quietly – conversation was exhausted hours ago. You can see little, your world one of substantial grey.

Up all night, the fishing poor and underlying it all a lack of purpose. Life had been so full with Jesus – now you're off balance, still reeling with all the events packed into the last few days. What will you do? The future isn't clear. Will you go back to fishing full-time and take up the threads of ordinary life or wait and see?

Then slowly, the mist begins to thin out and then on the shore you see the outline of a figure. A voice calls, asks about the fishing, then tells you to throw the net once more. Suddenly you're engulfed in a great burst of activity, fish splashing water everywhere. You pull on the net, it moves, stops, - too heavy to lift.

A little while later you are sitting on the sand. You are still cold from the water but the fire slowly begins to warm you. You put your hand out to it and rub the warmth back in to them.

Can you smell the smoke, the warming bread, the fish grilling?

Then Jesus offers you a piece of bread. Take it.

Jim Currie

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