

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



Church News

October/November 2020

Parish Register

Deaths

22 August 2020	Kenneth Birse, Thymebank, Main Road, Balbeggie
31 August 2020	Brian Bonar, 16 Kinnond Court, Perth
6 September 2020	Wilma Murray, Ardfarn, 15 Pitcullen Crescent, Perth
13 September 2020	Alec Collie, 28 Stormont Road, Scone
25 September 2020	Georgina Brown, 24 Birch Avenue, Scone

Church News

Material for the December/January edition should be forwarded to the church office (tel 553900; email sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net) or to the editor Moira Daly (moiradalyscone54@gmail.com) by Thursday 26 November 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

Dear Members and Adherents,

I write to wish you all God's blessings for this coming season. The challenges of the moment, I am sure, are not easy for many but I am glad you are responding as you feel comfortable. It is good to be in contact with many by phone and also to hear that folk have managed trips out for coffee, to hotels, garden centres and to the shops, or have been out in the car to other places. You might be pleased to hear that your Church is now open for worship each Sunday morning and that as far as safe places are concerned, relatively speaking, you won't find safer. All is superbly ordered and services last for 25 minutes. Worship is held in St Martins at 9.30 am and in Scone at 10.45 am and 12.45 pm. We have been worshipping in Scone Old/ Burnside during the month of September and will be in Scone New/Balformo Road in October. Two services are offered for two reasons: the first reason is to facilitate safe spacing in the current climate, as church buildings are permitted to safely accommodate no more than 50 people at a time but, that said, there is still a lovely atmosphere at worship; the second reason is that if at the moment you are looking for a quieter experience the 12.45 pm service currently is proving less popular than 10.45 am. I am happy to report that in St Martins and Scone numbers have been growing.

Of course, I am aware that many would love to be back in their local Kirk but as they have not as yet managed further than their own four walls or the perimeter of their garden, and cannot yet be given a lift in the usual way, coming to Church is not yet possible. My heart goes out to you. Life can be far from easy. I trust however you all feel loved and cared for. If however you are in need of pastoral care at this difficult time, please do not hesitate to contact me. As your minister with pastoral oversight of the flock, I know that our elders and pastoral committee members seek to be diligent in their care, and undertake good work. Each and all of us would not like to think that anyone is in need of support and that we are unaware. Alas, needs that cannot be met at the moment include the visiting of nursing homes and hospitals as it is absolutely against regulations. I phone regularly to leave messages when people are in hospital, the hospice, and in nursing homes; hopefully you receive these messages. Visits to folk's homes are not encouraged either, but I do hope that when I phone and get no reply that it is a good sign you are managing to get out. In all circumstances, and especially at present, we all seek to keep to good practice and that involves everyone keeping to Government Guidelines including adherence to good Safeguarding Practice and to strict Data Protection.

In the month of October, we celebrate Harvest. The suggested date is 11 October. Our Harvest Convener has mentioned that, as we cannot have the usual harvest distribution of gifts, cards go out to those remembered at

this time. We are suggesting that donations of non-perishable foods be received for the Foodbank. A box for donations will be placed outside the sanctuary in which to pop your gifts. There is no need to touch the box and safe uplift will be arranged.

As I write, I have received Presbytery's decision that we may go ahead with the October Communion at the end of the month. You are invited to bring your own bread and wine. Simply bring a little of each for yourself. No elders will be serving you. You just slip the bread and wine quietly under your mask at the appropriate time. It will be a quiet and simple Act of Communion. I favour this over no Communion and do not hold with a virtual Communion. I am sure that this will be special. I will write a short, appropriate and significant liturgy.

It is difficult, as you appreciate, to read too far forward. However, it is our intention that Remembrance Sunday will go ahead. The Nation I am sure will observe. Watch the Press and Scone and St Martins website for an update nearer the time. I have heard of a community knitting poppies which they are planning to pin on to trees in their Church Grounds. If anyone is interested in the pattern, I can provide you with a copy. This would be in addition to supporting the Poppy Appeal and to having our usual wreaths.

Advent and Christmas are also in preparation. Who knows what the situation will be by that time. However, we are adaptable! Sadly the Christingle Service cannot take place in its usual form, but, if those who enjoy preparation make contact with me, we will consider together an alternative.

Now, some may be wondering if children are welcome at Church each week under present arrangements. They are welcome to sit with their parents or grandparents and there is a very short children's part to our 25 minutes of worship. It is good to see all who are returning to Church, and believe me the atmosphere is beautiful, even under current restrictions. All present contribute to the atmosphere of worship. My thanks to the following: Mr Mike Moir, Depute Clerk, who is giving most valuable support; to Mr Robin Walker, Treasurer, who is taking careful interest in the congregational finances and encouraging all to give as God has prospered us; Kate Carswell, Roll keeper, for purchasing, on the Church's behalf, the necessary safeguards to keep us within Government Guidelines; Christine Munro, Communications Convener, for running off appropriate posters and signage; our Beadle Ron Cathro and Duty Teams along with Moira Daly, Magazine Editor. Many are the people working in various ways quietly and efficiently - God bless them all. It was nice to hear a visitor comment that she found her visit to us a refreshing experience, and to receive positive comments from elders and members.

At the moment, I am having a working holiday which includes attendance at the coming virtual General Assembly. The proposals could be far reaching. National Finances, impinged upon by the health or otherwise of each congregation's finances, will be on the agenda; the potential closure of many buildings - not simply one or two; the formation of new Presbyteries and new Presbytery Plans. There could be a major shake-up affecting everyone. Whatever comes our way at this Assembly may we all here in Scone and St Martins be found to be supporting the Church of which we are members with our best foot going forward.

Now I realise that folk are wondering about organisations commencing and church halls opening. If you are listening to all the regulations, we cannot as yet open and no permission has as yet been given by Presbytery. That is one of the next items on the agenda that will demand much consideration and planning.

Thank you to the Company Section of the Boys Brigade who kindly added to outdoor badge work by visiting the manse garden, prior to the most recent set of regulations, where they proved they had many fine skills; my appreciation and sincere thanks to them.

Now, in closing, the loss of good friends continues, and many will be saddened to hear of the recent passing of Ken Birse, a valued member of our Finance Committee and a good friend to many, who set a brave example to the end; we extend our loving sympathy to Wendy and her family. You will be sorry to hear of the passing, very recently of Alec Collie, a regular attender and loving supporter of our Kirk to the end. I knew him for a relatively short time, but in that time loved and respected him and appreciated his genuine interest in the Boys Brigade Company and its Chess Team. To Alice and the family we extend our love and sympathies at this time. We also extend loving sympathy to Bob Murray and family on the loss of Wilma, so sudden and unexpected, to Linda Bonar on the sudden death of her husband, Brian and to Thomas Brown and family on the death of Gena, so brave to the end. Wendy, Alice, Bob, Linda and Thomas I do not doubt have been upheld by their Christian faith and upheld by the prayers of many friends.

I hope to see all those who are able to be out and about, at church on a Sunday, and send continued loving wishes to you all. My prayers are with you as I know are those of the Prayer Group. A very big thank you to the members of the Prayer Group who have completed a Prayer Walk in every street in Scone; Balbeggie, Guildtown, Stormontfield, Wolfhill and all residing outwith the parish are not forgotten either. That prayer changes things has been the experience of many of us. Keep praying but be thankful that God's

answers are wiser than our prayers. And remember, prayer does not change God but changes the one who prays. Prayer should be the key in the morning and the lock at night.

Every blessing to each and all, and in these words: Deep Peace of the Quiet earth to you; Deep Peace of the flowing air to you; Deep Peace of the shining stars to you; Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you, both now and forever more.

Maudeen, your Parish Minister. Telephone number: 551942

Here is a hymn worth remembering and singing at this time. It is of 18th century German origin:

We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

*Chorus - All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.*

He only is the maker of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.

Chorus

We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, and food;
No gifts have we to offer, for all Thy love imparts,
But that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

Chorus



Report from Depute Session Clerk

Well, at least we are back in church and that is positive and hopeful!! Starting with the individual prayer and contemplation periods in the churches, we have now progressed to services on a Sunday, even if they are short, no singing, but with lovely recorded music, and all at the two metre social distance. It is different, there is no doubt of that, but it is progress and it is hopeful of a not too distant future, when we can all decide to attend church once again.

It is disappointing that the virus is on the rise again, but not totally unexpected. All we can do is follow the advice as best we can, ensure that as individuals we do not do anything that is likely to spread the virus and take care of the less able in our community as far as is possible.

Keep safe and well.

Mike Moir
Depute Session Clerk



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

Church Calendar

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



Harvest Thanksgiving - All Good Gifts Around Us

Autumn colours are appearing all around. Many fields have been cut and I love to see the bales of hay, round or rectangle and the shadows round them made by the lowering sun. Many of us have used some of the hours gifted by Covid 19, spending time in the garden. My father was a gardener but I think I have purple rather than green fingers so I have been thrilled with my great potato crop, all from 8 rather withered Maris Piper seeds bought in a poly bag at Morrisons. What wonders nature performs. My courgettes (yellow) haven't been a total success but the flowers were bonny. My 2 tomato plants (gifts as seedlings by friends - thank you) have been a real interest growing in my porch. Tiny sweet orange jewels on one and full size the other, not a lot but lovely flavour. My other jewels have come from the gift of a packet of mixed lettuce seed. From it I have been delighted by lacey, frilled and wide spring fresh green and beautiful deep red leaves ready to pick for salads throughout the summer.

Now as September wanes my little old and bent apple tree has been decked in the biggest, brightest apples seen on it for many years. Thinking on these things, and the lovely days of sunshine we all enjoyed in the spring and scattered through the rest of summer, I am lifted from darker thoughts of coming cold and short winter days. We can't - in church - bring our harvest gifts to display and share this year. Instead there will be a foodbank collection on 11 October as detailed in the Minister's letter. In fact we are not allowed to have even a vase of flowers for the weekly service. Cards will go to people who would traditionally receive from the harvest display and we can all give thanks to God for the good things we enjoy.

Traditionally church flowers, gifted by members of the congregation, are given to people at times of illness, bereavement and other times of stress and also celebration. This was not possible for the Pastoral Committee during Lockdown but we are again trying to recognise these occasions and organise flower gifts. If you have in the past supported church flowers or would like now to give a monetary donation please contact Margaret Buchan (621814), Val Grossart (551348) or Margaret McMillan (551560). 'Be still and know that I am God' - I hope that in low times appreciation of the earth's beauty and thankfulness for all the good things we enjoy, sharing and caring for others, will give us strength to cope with these difficult days.

Margaret McMillan



GREETINGS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

CHRISTIAN AID hopes that you are well during this crisis.

TRAIDCRAFT is the trade organisation supporting producers all around the world and helping them to get started and then get a fair price for their produce. It is a Christian response to poverty. It was founded in 1979 by a group of Christians who wanted to challenge the deep injustices embedded in global trade. They work with supporters of all faiths and none, and they work with farmers and artisans whatever their creed, ethnicity or religion. Christian Aid is one of its supporters.

In past years, due to the generosity of our Guild, I have been invited to sell Christmas goods at one of the Guild's meetings. Unfortunately, due to the present situation, that is not possible this year. However, you can still support Christian Aid through buying from the traidcraft catalogue. The Traidcraft catalogue can be viewed online at:

www.traidcraftshop.co.uk where you will find a selection of household items, food stuff, gift ideas and cards, calendars and gift wrap, they even have a range of masks available. Please have a look. You could do your Christmas shopping without the hassle of queuing, masks or busy shops.

SEND A GIFT, SAVE A LIFE For that little bit different gift, Traidcraft exchange have a range of gifts at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/charitygifts. All profits from these go to helping the world's most vulnerable communities to get a fairer deal from trade.

I wish you all well. You are in my prayers at this difficult time for us all.

Peggy Lamond for Scone and St Martins Christian Aid committee
(01738 553582)

A world map with red markers indicating the locations of Christian Aid projects in over 20 countries across South America, Africa, and Asia.

**Worldwide
Christian Aid
are building
peace in**

over 20 countries

In the last newsletter mention was made of the BB Activity programme BBatHome. Five boys participated. Two reached gold standard; one made it to silver; and the other 2 two attained bronze. One lovely sunny summer night our Captain, Kenny McAlpine presented the awards to four of the boys at a socially distance event in the park with proud parents looking on. The fifth boy was not able to make it being on holiday in Aviemore but he was presented at home the following week.

Unfortunately we have not been able to start back for a new session as the Church of Scotland in their perceived wisdom (or lack of it) have ordained the churches cannot yet open their halls. This is not a decision taken by our church but from on high. It looks likely that it will be well into October or later before clearance is given.

We have not been idle though. Our first meet was to carry out a tidy up round the RDM Institute. This not only spruced up the place a bit but also meant that boys, particularly the Queen's Badge boys, got merit points for their badge work.

The following week we had an outdoor sports night in the car park playing volleyball and football. A good night was had. Unfortunately with the evenings getting shorter it is not feasible to meet outdoors on our usual Thursday evening so on the 24th an online quiz is being held. The quiz has been put together by our youngest officer Ryan Mudie who is presently self-isolating as there is someone in his halls of residence who has been struck by the covid bug.

A further community activity was undertaken on Saturday 19th when a good sized squad of boys undertook a tidy up of part of the manse garden. They did a very good job, if I say so!

If anyone knows of any community activity that the boys might be able to undertake please let myself or Kenny know. Finally this is the 125th year of the Company in Scone and there will be celebration(s) at some point in time. Watch this space.

Iain Lamond



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2020

We have received further information regarding this year's appeal. The final day that we can accept shoeboxes is 8 November 2020. The sort is from 16-19 November 2020 but we need to have the boxes in one week in advance.

There will be a few changes this year because of Covid. The main thrust of the local appeal will be to raise funds in order to create a 'shoe box factory' during the week of the sort. The local organisers at Perth Baptist church wish people to give if they can, towards the local Blythswood Perth Shoe Box appeal. The money raised will be used to purchase boxes and fillers, creating shoe boxes in a carefully controlled environment, avoiding quarantines and minimising risks to volunteers who are helping. Boxes brought during the week of the sort will unfortunately have to be sealed in bags and sent to the next sort as they will be unable to handle them.

Please put any donations in an envelope clearly marked for the shoebox appeal.

If, like some of us, you started collecting for your shoe box but are now unable to complete it we will accept any donations of goods in carrier bags and take them to the sort.

Leaflets are available from Moira or Marian. We also have a limited number of shoeboxes – please contact us if you would like one.

If we receive any further updates we will put it on the website, Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Please do not hesitate to contact Marian or Moira if you require any further information.



Marian Forgan (552064) and Moira Daly (552773)



GUILD

Having just heard the First Minister telling us to limit our contact with other households, I recalled the following quote from Janice Taylor's recent email; "One step forward and two backwards just now – with no real end in sight!!"

Having 'attended' a virtual meeting of the National Council, Janice, as the Perth and Kinross Guilds Together representative to the Council, sent a report on the discussion. The following is a precis of some of the points in Janice's report.

- Many Guilds are considering changing their session, planning to start in January and carrying on until May or June. As yet the Committee of the Scone and St Martins branch have not had the opportunity to discuss this but it could be a possibility. However, Guild dues are needed as usual to keep things going and to help support our projects. The capitation fee will remain at £12 for session 20-21 and reviewed for session 21-22.
- There was not much to report on the projects, but the young mums in Malawi are all well and have turned their skills to the making of masks. The installation of solar lights in 6 schools has started, funded by offerings from our Big Sings. With schools starting again, this will make a tremendous difference not only to the children, but to the whole community. As well as being able to have school classes until later in the afternoon, the schools will be open for activities and learning during the evening as well. This will be of particular benefit to the women of the villages and will have such a positive and valuable effect on the lives of so many.
- The new set of projects will start in September 2021 and there are 35 - 40 organisations who have already expressed interest in being selected as a Guild Project partner.

The transition to the new National Convener, Mabel Wallace, took place during the Virtual Gathering on 5 September. I have a recording of the Virtual Gathering which I plan to show as soon as we can meet. I'd just like to remind everyone that Guild Enews is available from the Church of Scotland website.

A further quote from Janice's email – "Karen (Gillen, Associate Secretary) stated that we need to keep going, finding new ways of doing and being Guild - there is such a lot still to do - our time is not yet up!! "

Christine Munro

Children's Story – Harvest Thanksgiving

There was once a Queen of Britain whose name was Victoria. Queen Victoria reigned for a very long time, in fact for more than 60 years. When she had been Queen for 50 years, special celebrations were held. A celebration is a joyful occasion in recognition of a happy event. A celebration of 50 years is called a Golden Jubilee. Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was on 22 June 1887. People marked the happy occasion with bonfires and fireworks and parties and Church Services.

The Lake District of England is a very beautiful part of the country. There are many hills. Some high, others not so high. The people who lived by the Lakes decided to mark the Queen's Jubilee with bonfires on the tops of a number of hills. They carried wood up the steep paths and made everything ready. When the great day came, you could stand on the top of one of the high hills in the Lakes, perhaps Skiddaw or Helvellyn and count one hundred and fifty bonfires on the hills around. It was a special day - a celebration of a happy occasion, the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Harvest Thanksgiving is a special day in the Church. We place flowers and fruit and vegetables around the Church. We stand a sheaf of corn in a prominent place. In this way we celebrate the harvest which gives us food for the next year. We use the occasion - the celebration - to give thanks to God for our food. Good food and clean water and fresh air are so very important for our lives - very important indeed.

It is good to have a special day now and then to mark important occasions - like Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and our Harvest Thanksgiving.

Children's Prayer



O God, you show your care for the land by sending rain; you make it rich and fertile. What a rich harvest your goodness provides!

Anne Lamond

There are been more than a million Hadiyya people in Ethiopia. The publication of the New Testament in the Hadiyya language a few years ago has helped churches in evangelisation. Now that the Old Testament has been completed it will be published in 2020 and distribution can begin. This means that whole Bible is available to Hadiyya people in their own language for the first time.

Please pray for the completion and distribution of this translation, pray also for everyone who will receive their own copy of the Bible in their own heart language and that they may experience the joy that reading God's word can bring.

Jim Currie

Prayer Notes

We confess, Lord God, what we are
We are not the people we like others to think we are
We are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depth of our souls
But we do not want to hide our true selves from you
We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you like us.

Help us not to shrink from self knowledge,
Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake,
Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power.

We also confess to you, Lord, the unrest of the world
To which we contribute and in which we share
Forgive us that so many of us are indifferent to the needs of our fellow men
and women
Forgive our reliance on weapons of terror
Our discrimination against people of different races
And our preoccupation with material standards
And forgive us Christians for being so unsure of our Good News and for
being unready to tell it.

Raise us out of our paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven
people.
And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept,
We ask you to break their bondage and set them free
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jim Currie

**Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts for 8 months ended 31 August 2020
(excluding Guild and Clubs)**

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2020	2019
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Offerings	39,185	47,993
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	11,572	9,378
Donations	1,520	1,203
Weddings & Funerals	790	660
Hall lets	5,926	14,228
Contributions from congregational organisations	1,300	1,445
Fund raising events (net income)	1,817	8,466
Other income (net)	<u>763</u>	<u>746</u>
 Total receipts	 <u>62,873</u>	 <u>84,119</u>

Notes:

- Offerings are down by 18% on last year, due to the absence of church services since late March. Many of our members have helped to support our finances by sending us wfo cheques, donations, or by continuation of their standing orders during the restrictions.
- Tax recovered on Gift Aid is ahead of last year through earlier timing of claims.
- Fundraising from the Minister's sponsored slim reached £823 by the end of August, with more to come in September. Last year's total includes the Summer Fair.
- Salary costs have been reduced by a total of £3,940 from the government's Job Retention Scheme.
- In the first 8 months of the year we have incurred a deficit of £18,690, due to the combination of lost income from hall lets, fundraising, and offerings. Some of the congregation are keeping up their regular giving by sending cheques, payable to Scone & St Martins Parish Church to the Treasurer, Scone & St Martins Church, Balforno Rd., Scone, PH2 6QU.

Thank you for your continuing support through this difficult time.

Robin Walker, Treasurer

CONTACT DETAILS

Minister	Rev Maudeen MacDougall Tel 01738 551942 Email: Maudeen.Macdougall@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	
Deputy Session Clerk	Mike Moir Tel 01738 551549 Email: mikemoir@blueyonder.co.uk
Rollkeeper	Kate Carswell Tel 01738 551174 Email: katecarswell@hotmail.co.uk
Editor Church News	Moira Daly Tel 01738 552773 Email: moiradalyscone54@gmail.com

CONVENERS

Communications	Christine Munro	01738 628349
Finance	Douglas Calderwood	01738 553399
Outreach & Education	Iain MacKinnon	01738 551975
Pastoral Care	Margaret McMillan	01738 551560
Property	Mike Moir	01738 551549
Safeguarding	Helen Simpson	01738 248223
Social & Fundraising	Anne Lamond	01738 552262

USEFUL CONTACTS

Boys' Brigade	Kenny McAlpine	01738 553038
Christian Aid	Peggy Lamond	01738 553582
Church Flowers	Margaret Buchan Val Grossart	01738 621814 01738 551348
Church Office	Roksolana Clark	01738 553900
Church Transport	Hamish Breckenridge Iain MacKinnon	01738 551072 01738 551975
Fellowship Lunch	Balformo - Iain MacKinnon Burnside - Margaret McMillan	01738 551975 01738 551560
Free Will Offering Envelopes/Gift Aid	Margaret Nicol	01738 552232
Guild	Christine Munro	01738 628349
Hub	Iain MacKinnon	01738 551975
Knit n Chat	Sheila Simpson	01738 551773
PACT	Hamish Breckenridge	01738 551072
St Martins	Ellen Simpson	01821 640342
Sunday School	Sylvia Bryan	01738 551398
Treasurer	Robin Walker	01738 551936

Scottish Charity No SC007094