

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



Church News

December 2020/January 2021

Parish Register

Deaths

28 September 2020	Maureen Scott, Scone
3 October 2020	Christina Spark, Scone
12 October 2020	Joan Rangeley, Scone
12 October 2020	George Munro, Perth
15 October 2020	George Mullen, Balbeggie
15 October 2020	Isobel Orr, Scone
20 October 2020	Christina Rae, Scone
30 October 2020	Peter Mills, Scone
6 November 2020	Ann (Nancy) Reid, Scone
8 November 2020	Margaret Anton, Scone
9 November 2020	Margaret Davies, Scone
12 November 2020	Theressa Downey, Scone

Church News

Material for the February/March 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 28 January 2021. 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

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,

My thoughts and prayers are with you this Christmas and especially with all who are unable to get out and about. How we miss you and remember you in our prayers. I hope you are taking care of yourselves and managing to stay safe. Be assured you are much loved and far from forgotten. To those who have been in hospital, I hope good progress is being made, and to all in the homes we cannot yet visit, if you can imagine a loving hug, one is being extended you and your dear ones. In addition to making contact by phone, we are planning for the day when we will be able to be together again. Keep as upbeat and positive as you can. Hopefully Christmas will help give you a lift. For some of our friends Christmas this year will be a hard time, especially for all who have lost those very dear. We pray God's loving and healing presence will be with you.

As I was thinking of you all, this Christmas Carol came to mind: "It came upon the midnight clear." It is worth looking up in your hymn book. I especially think this Christmas of the first and fourth verses:

"It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold; Peace on the earth, good will to men from heaven's all gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow. Look, now, for glad and golden hours, come swiftly on the wing, O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing."

May you all have a time to rest this Christmas in God's loving and healing presence and may the song and message of the Christmas angels bring blessing to each and all.

With Love this Christmas,
Maudeen

A very big thank you to our Covid Team, Mike Moir, Robin Walker, Kate Carswell and to the Kirk Session, Committee Conveners and Members, Duty Teams, Readers, Magazine Editor, Secretary, Beadle, Bell Ringers, BB, and to you all. May Love, Peace and Joy be in your hearts this Christmas and may the New Year bring extra blessing!

Maudeen

The Light of Christmas: We are delighted to be associated with all responsible for Light up our Community, Light up our Lives, and are pleased that Karen and Gaynor are coming to Church on Advent Sunday to light the first candle. In addition, I have put forward on behalf of our Church the invitation to all able to theme their gardens this year on a Christmas Carol. Many are the good Carols! The more light the better in our community at Christmas. I have also been cheered to hear that folks out of town have hit on to our Church website at "Scone and St Martins Parish Church" and are theming their gardens and even their farms on the Carols. I hope if you take up the idea, it will bring much pleasure to you, your loved ones, and to the stranger who passes by. **Christ is Christmas!**

Lockdown Recipe Book for Church Funds: Thank you to all who so sportingly supported the Lockdown Recipe Book in an upbeat spirit. It was just great to receive your communications. Well, hopefully it will be available on the day or even before you receive this magazine. I'm sure all who contributed would like to give encouragement to all others to help the Church by selling the 150 printed. Yes, it will make a super Christmas Gift. It will also be something to keep as a souvenir for your children and grandchildren as an initiative of your Church during the world pandemic. I need you to be my sales personnel. As the Antique programme puts it - Flog It!!! Let's get an advert on to our Face Book Pages, yes your personal Facebook in addition to the Church's. If you have the skill, please send the advert on to the Community website, School website too and let us spare no effort. Who knows you might get an idea for a Christmas Starter or Pudding or something you might enjoy on New Year's Eve. You will be benefitting the Church's Funds as well. The National Church of Charitable Status is running at a deficit of £30million and we're doing our best in Scone and St Martins to improve our position.

Thank You for your Sponsorship of my Weight Loss: It really was so kind and encouraging of all who sponsored my weight loss for Church Funds. First and foremost I decided to do it to help the Church's finances as like all charitable organisations we are going through the challenges both locally and nationally as we continue to serve at the point of greatest need. However, not only have a number given to the Church but they have given encouragement to their minister as well. I am so thankful for it and have to warn you that having lost the amount that I have and now working to lose more before Christmas, I feel in my thirties again! It's such fun.

God's Creation: What an amazing place this is. I wonder what is keeping you going in addition to your times of meditation, reading, phoning friends and neighbours, playing music and looking out for others. Why not write in and share it with us. A fair number are keen on their gardens, I know, but I imagine that it is not the best weather for that. Some very contented congregational friends have told me that though they cannot get out themselves they are continuing to look after the birds. That's lovely! I'm doing my best to take care of them as well. And, what an amazing variety are still around. The squirrels also give me joy! Indeed a couple of friends wrote me to say they had another grandchild on which they were doting. I was celebrating with them by email and signed off by admitting that the closest I had to that were baby squirrels in the manse garden. They are so cute but so small I am quite concerned about their welfare. I hope they make it through the winter. Do not worry, though, I shall not be taking them into the manse. You'll recall my experience about 40 years ago. Well some of you will have heard of when a lady in her 90's came to me with an unusual problem, viz. her house had been overtaken by squirrels. She had felt sorry for the little squirrel one winter and had taken it in out of the cold. The following winter another appeared on the window sill so she took it in as a companion to the first. In no time at all there were many little squirrels swinging on crystal chandeliers, getting into the chests of drawers and doing all sorts among the silks. And, how they enjoyed themselves, as they swung from room to room until they had taken over the whole house, except the sun lounge. O, do not be tempted. The old lady needed a remedy so her nurse suggested that they go and see the doctor. She retorted that they were all men! Well what about the minister, enquired the nurse. They're as bad, she said. Well, this happened long enough ago for the nurse to reply that she had "a young female minister". So, the old lady came to see me. How I'd have loved to do a pied piper act but the skill was not given me. Ask no questions but the house had to be cleared of the squirrels and the old lady was still living in her home when after 6 years there I moved to a city near here described as "bonnie" and about which the poet McGonigle had much to say! But among the many I have never forgotten was that old lady. She had amazing red hair about which I couldn't help but comment as it looked natural. She told me that she had washed her hair in whisky all her days! She had sat, also, on Christabel Pankhurst's, the famous Suffragette's knee, as a wee girl, as her mother and Christabel Pankhurst were friendly.

Thanks be to God for all whom we meet on the journey through life and for the memories we treasure. And no, I shan't be taking the squirrels into the manse much as I love them!

Maudeen

Christmas and New Year Calendar

Here are the details for our planning for Christmas as we wish and pray and work towards Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all.

29 November: Advent Sunday at 10.45 am. Light up our Community, Light up our Lives/the Advent Candle, the first light of the season will be lit in Church. **Scone Old.**

Advent Sunday: 9.30 am St Martins and 12 noon Scone Old Kirk. Invitation is extended to those who have lost loved ones. Bring a battery night light or torch with you.

6 December: Advent 2: the Christmas Gift Service. Children's gifts go to the Salvation Army Appeal. **9.30 am St Martins 10.45 am and 12 noon in December Scone New/Balformo Rd.**

13 December: Advent 3 - the Christmas Communion. Those taking Communion are asked to bring a small portion of bread and wine or grape juice with them.

20 December: Advent 4: Christmas Family Service. 9.30 am St Martins. 10.45 am and 12 noon Scone New.

24 December: 7 pm is the Children's Service with young people assisting with the leading of worship. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child and an old man in a red cloak and with a white beard will be there. Church bells will be rung at 7.00 pm. If unable to come, why not join in by singing a Christmas carol on your doorstep. **Scone Old Kirk.**

24 December: 11.30 pm Christmas Eve/Midnight Service Scone New/Balformo Rd.

25 December: 10.30 am Christmas Day - All welcome. Scone New/Balformo Rd.

27 December: Carols and Readings at 9.30 am St Martins, 10.45 am and 12 noon. Scone New.

On 3 January: 10.45 am and 12 noon Service for the New Year: Scone Old.

NB for the month of January services are in St Martins at 9.30 am and Scone Old at 10.45 am and 12 noon. Sundays 10 and 17 are Services in Epiphany. Sunday 24 January will have, hopefully, a Scottish theme.

All subject to Government Regulations for Covid 19 and that of our National Church.

Christmas Celebrations in other parts of the World

Peggy Lamond, I know will be telling you about all that is happening in Christian Aid. It is proposed that our Christmas Eve offerings are sent there. Christmas will be different for many people throughout the world this year! Listen to this thought once sent from Japan. One who said I am the eternal water, dwelt among us, living with us, sustaining us. This is Christmas. To receive a cup of living water is not only to cleanse ourselves but also to cleanse all the waters, river and well, lake and ocean, and to share them with all. This is Christmas.

Now a prayer from Guatemala: Waiting. Life is painful because of ones who have died. Joy is painful because of the ones who are crying. Love is painful because of the ones who hate. And while I am laughing and loving and crying, I am waiting for you, my Lord.

Now listen to this prayer sent from India. It arrived three decades past but does it not speak to our times:

Leader: Remember not the former things. Do not consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing: Now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?

Congregation: Lord we await. Do a new thing among us.

Leader: I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill made low.

Congregation: Lord we await. Do a new thing among us.

Leader: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Here is my servant, the one whom I have chosen. I have filled him with my Spirit - He will not lose hope or courage. He will establish justice on the earth. Distant lands eagerly await him:

Congregation: Lord we await. Do a new thing among us, establish justice on the earth.

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord; sing the Lord's praises all the world. Praise God all you people, let those who live in distant lands, give praise and glory to the Lord.

Congregation: And let us all give God the praise and glory! Amen.

Maudeen

Donation of Christmas Trees

The Kirk Session is very grateful to Lord and Lady Mansfield for the generous donation of Christmas trees for the churches at Scone New and Scone Old. These trees make such a difference to the churches. This annual donation has been made for as long as I have been associated with the church and it is very much appreciated.

Mike Moir, Depute Session Clerk

DIY CHRISTINGLE

This is going to be a very different Christmas for us all this year, but there will be several events to celebrate Christmas at Church this year, details of which can be found elsewhere in this magazine. Unfortunately, due to regulations, it is not possible for us to have a Christingle service this year. My granddaughter came up with the idea that we could have our own Christingle celebration at home. Why don't you try it? It could be great fun.

You will need:

- 1 large orange
- 1 thin candle (eg a birthday candle)
- 1 piece of thin red ribbon
- 4 cocktail sticks
- A few small sweets and dried fruits
eg raisins



- First take the orange – This represents the world which God made and loves.
- Now add the ribbon around the middle of the orange – This shows us God's love for the world. It reminds us that Jesus came to earth to show us a better way to live.
- Now place a cocktail stick at 4 points on the orange above the ribbon North, South, East, West. To represent the 4 corners of the world.
- Add sweets and fruits to the cocktail sticks to remind us of all the good things God gives us.
- Lastly, push the candle into the top of the orange, you may need to make small hole depending on thickness of candle, and light the candle. Christ is the light of the world.

As you light the candle, you might like to use this short prayer or sing the Christingle song (the tune is 'The Holly and the Ivy').

Prayer – Lord Jesus, Light of the world, I hold this Christingle as a sign of your love, the candle, planted deep in the world, is a sign that you made your home among us, and lived with the poor and neglected.

The ribbon wrapped around the earth, is a sign of your love shown on the cross enfolding the whole world in your love.

The fruit and sweets are signs of all the good things you have made, given to us that we might share them fairly so everyone has enough.

Lord Jesus, as I hold this Christingle, and think about your great love for me,

Help me to take this light out into the world, and to share your love for others, especially those who need it most. May your light shine in the darkness.
Amen

Christingle Song –

It's rounded like an orange, this earth on which we stand;
And we praise the God who holds it in the hollow of His hand.

*Chorus - So Father, we would thank you for all that you have done
And for all that you have given us through the coming of your son.*

A candle burning brightly can cheer the darkest night,
And these candles tell how Jesus came to make a dark world light.

Chorus

The ribbon round the orange reminds us of the cost
How the Shepherd, strong and gentle, gave his life to save the lost.

Chorus

Four seasons with their harvest supply the food we need
And the spirit gives a harvest that can make us rich indeed.

Chorus

We come with our Christingles to tell of Jesus birth
And we praise the God who blessed us by his coming to this earth.

Hope that you enjoy doing this as a family or on your own and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2021. You might like to post a photograph of your Christingle on the church's Facebook page.

Peggy Lamond



**CHRISTIAN AID WISH YOU A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

This has been a difficult year for everyone, but, especially for those who had so little to start with. We have been unable to have our usual fund raising events for Christian Aid resulting in a huge shortfall in Christian Aid funds. It is intended that the retiring offerings at the services on Christmas Eve will be given to Christian Aid this year. I hope that you will feel able to contribute to this.

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

Weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes

Elders will be delivering the envelopes for 2021 this month. Thank you to those members who use this easy and convenient way to help the Church. If you have not received envelopes and would like to give by this method, please speak to Helen Lowe (552488).

There are other ways in which you can give to the Church, both in the Open Plate, by cheque and by Standing Order from your Bank. Standing Orders are a good way for the Church to receive regular income and this year has highlighted what a benefit this method is to help us meet our financial commitments. If you would be interested in giving this way, there is a form on the opposite page for you to complete and give to your Bank or Building Society. Standing orders can also be set up using online banking.

If you are a taxpayer, signing a Gift Aid Declaration gives the Church additional income of 25% of your giving. Please speak to Margaret Nicol (552232) if you would like information.

Thank you to everyone for all their help financially during this difficult year. Your support is very much appreciated.

Douglas Calderwood, Finance Convener

Social and Fund Raising

Unfortunately no decision as yet has been taken by the Government re any gatherings for Coffee Mornings or any other Fund Raising events which we would have been running this year. The Committee are disappointed re this as these events are a huge part of our Church where we meet and make lots of friends.

Please be patient with us until these restrictions are lifted. Hopefully if the situation changes soon we can get back to a new normality and fund raise for the Churches in our Parish.

Watch further issues of the magazine for updates, but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime please take care everyone and stay safe.

Anne Lamond, Social and Fund Raising Convener (01738 552262)

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To:	The Manager
Bank Name & Address: (ie your bank)	

Please pay the following standard order to:	Bank of Scotland PO Box 1000 BX2 1LB
Account:	Scone and St Martins Parish Church
Bank details:	Account number 11611468 Sort code 80-22-60
	Amount: £ (In words also):
Commencing:	Due date: Frequency:
Name of Account to be debited:	
Account number:	
Sort code:	

Signature:

Date:

Scottish Charity No SC007094



Light Up Our Lives, Light Up Our Community

We (a group of local representatives from various community groups) would like to encourage all in Scone, both businesses and residents, to bring a little cheer and build on the Community spirit we forged when the pandemic first hit us.

This season of advent we cannot do everything we have done in the past, but we think it is important that this year we try and shine a little light into all our lives. In these strange and sometimes difficult times, it is often the simplest of things that can bring a smile and indeed bring a community together.

If you can, we would ask that you decorate your window(s), door or even garden and help bring our community alive, ideally, we would like to see windows and doors decorated from 1st December.

It doesn't mean that you have to fully dress your window and put up a Christmas tree, although we wouldn't stop you! We are sure there are many ways you could think of just putting something bright in your windows for us all to look at while we have a walk around the village or even a drive for some of our less able residents. It could be a picture, painting, drawing of a snowman, lights, a message of hope for the season etc. It's your window/door you chose.

Scone and St Martin's Church are also encouraging their members and the wider community to decorate a window or garden in the theme of a favourite Christmas carol, so many to choose from, this could be quite beautiful.

We have contacted many of the groups, organisations and businesses in the village so we really are hoping Scone will be alive with colour, lights and cheer over the coming weeks.

We have set up a Facebook page (Light up Our Lives, Light Up Our Community - Scone) and there will be the option to submit your photos of your windows, it is not a competition, there's no prize for the best or biggest display we just want something for us all to look forward to and enjoy together.

Karen Donaldson (RDM Institute) and Gaynor Hood (RDM Parent Council)

Light Up Our Lives, Light Up Our Community - Scone

**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.**

The Very First Christmas Day

"The Very First Christmas Day" is an original Christmas story poem that tells of the Saviour's birth in Bethlehem.

His parents had no money, although He was a King -
An angel came to Joseph one night as he dreamed.
"Don't be afraid to marry her, this child is God's own Son,"
And with these words from God's messenger, their journey had begun.

They travelled to the city, their taxes to be paid -
But when Christ was born they found no place for the baby to be laid.
So they wrapped Him up and used a lowly manger for His bed,
With nothing else but straw to place beneath the Christ-child's head.

The shepherds came to worship Him, the wise men travelled too -
Led by a star up in the sky, they found the baby new.
They gave him gifts so wondrous, their incense, myrrh, and gold,
Thus completes the greatest story of a birth 'twas ever told.

He was just a tiny baby, born in a stable far away -
They had no reservations, and nowhere else to stay.
But His birth was so majestic, in a simple sort of way,
A baby born in Bethlehem on a very special day.

It was the Saviour born in Bethlehem, on the very first Christmas Day.

By Brenda Thompson Davis and sent in by Jim Currie



The Hub

May we the leads at The Hub wish all our lovely customers and wonderful helpers our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. The past months have been a challenge for us all. We hope we can restart the Hub when it is allowed and indeed it is safe to do so. In the meantime kind thoughts and best wishes to you all. Take care and keep safe.

Ian, Ann, Ellen, Morag and Val

In the last edition of the Newsletter I mentioned the fact that we had not been allowed back into the halls. That was penned on 23/09/20 and here we are on 19/11/20 and we are still not allowed back into the halls, although this may have changed by the time this Newsletter is delivered. Approaching the season of goodwill to all men (and women) it would not be appropriate to vent my spleen about this in these pages. Suffice to say that I am not a happy bunny - far from it. Whilst one has to be very careful, particularly when dealing with young adults, a balance has to be struck and I do not think that this is currently being achieved by the Church of Scotland. The Boys' Brigade set out very clear guidance for resumption of activity and in Scone we have taken that and more on board.

Since the last Newsletter we have managed a host of activities. An activity day at the Willowgate Centre where the boys enjoyed bush craft, archery, kayaking and giant paddle boarding. A great, but very wet day, was had. A bike gymkhana in the park (see the Scone BB Facebook page). We also had a Zoom evening when Craig Stevenson (a parent) presented a very interesting quiz based on various game shows. Unfortunately the weather put paid to two other events we planned, namely a walk up to the Duff and Lymedoch monuments/memorials and a cycle rally round the village.

The highlight has, of course, been our parade at Scone Palace. Having assembled in the car park along with boys from the Junior Section we wandered down to Quarrymill and up to the main gate for the palace. We then re-assembled at the gate and fell into parade order. Ably led by Piper Tom Sinclair of Perth and District Pipe Band and with colours flying (carried by Lewis O'Loughlin and Jamie Flood) we then marched the whole length of the palace drive up to the palace (again our Facebook page has photographs and video). The boys were well photograph by visitors leaving the palace. After some refreshment the Juniors presented a short figure marching session and the Company Section a short drill routine on the lawn in front of a large crowd of parents/relatives/palace visitors.

The awards for session 19/20 were then presented by Captain Kenny McAlpine. Ben Wyllie was best recruit; Lewis O'Loughlin was best boy; Lewis Flood gained the Stan McMillan trophy for attendance and inspection; and Fraser Flood gained the trophy for Scripture based on the excellent prayer he wrote for the BB @ Home tasks.

I started in a sad vein and unfortunately must likewise finish. There will be no Christmas card delivery service this year and the famous coffee morning

will not take place at the beginning of December. The latter will hurt our finances but hopefully once the present trials and tribulations are past we may be able to fit one in.

Iain Lamond



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2020

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this year's appeal. Despite the impact of Covid 19 and its affect on our day to day activities, we were able to take 24 shoeboxes and £270 in donations to the collection point at Perth Baptist Church. We also had a bag of hand knitted garments and another couple of bags with 'extras' that people had bought.

When we went last year the church hall was awash in boxes. Sadly, it was not the same this year. We placed our boxes, gifts and an envelope with our donations into trays; we always remained socially distanced. The boxes sat for a week before being checked and the donations will be used to buy items to fill shoeboxes. Thank you again to everyone who made up boxes or donated money/gifts to this worthwhile cause.

Marian Forgan and Moira Daly



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



GUILD

Capitation Fees

In the last Church News it was mentioned that although Guilds have been unable to meet in the usual format for several months, capitation fees were still required to keep things going. HQ recently sent a letter backing up this request and pointing out what our capitation fee covers and informing us that because of the reduced outgoings HQ has incurred over these months eg staff being furloughed and other changes to staff have resulted in lower staff costs, capitation fees for the current year, 2020-2021, have been reduced to £9. I would encourage members to send their capitation fees to the Treasurer, Margaret Nicol, as soon as possible. Margaret is willing to accept the fee by cheque or BACS. Cheques should be made payable to *Scone and St Martins Guild*. If you prefer to use the BACS system the details are – sort code 80-91-28 and account number is 00796129. Thank you to those members who have already sent their capitation fees.

Guild ENews

The edition of Guild ENews published on 17 November contained an item from Andrea Houston, National Vice Convener, about one of her favourite hymns, The Lord is my Shepherd, a favourite of many which is sung to various tunes. Andrea's favourite tune is 'Brother James Air', the one used as the theme tune to The Vicar of Dibley. After explaining what the different verses mean to her, Andrea wrote about the Sunday school teacher who had "decided that her class would learn the 23rd psalm and then recite it to the congregation. Wee Jimmy wasn't very quick at reading and picking things up. So on the Sunday when they had to recite to the congregation, wee Jimmy who had been trying hard to learn the psalm, stood up and said: 'The Lord is my shepherd, and that's all we need to know'. So all we need to know is that the Lord is our shepherd, too, and when things get tough or we are weak, we can all depend on the good Lord and our Shepherd."

Guild ENews can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

The National leadership team recently made a video of a Guild meeting and have posted it on YouTube. I realise that many of you do not have access to electronic/digital communications but ask your family, friends or neighbours – they may be able to show you websites etc on their devices when they are able to visit.

On behalf of the Guild I would like to extend best wishes for a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and more 'normal' 2021 to all.

Christine Munro



Children's Story

Thank You Father God

Does Santa come to your house at Christmas? Children write letters to Santa and they put them in envelopes, stick on a stamp and pop them into the letter box.

Do you know what happens to these letters to Santa which are posted in Scotland? They go to the huge sorting office in Edinburgh where there is a "Santa Room" and it's there where one or two of his helpers work and they read all the letters. Childrens' letters from all over Scotland go there so it is a big task for the helpers.

One year when Christmas was over, someone phoned the "Santa Room" in the sorting office in Edinburgh and asked "did you get many letters from girls and boys asking Santa for gifts?" "Oh yes! indeed we did!", replied the man. "Lots and lots of letters. They filled many mailbags." "Did anyone write to say 'thank you?'" "Well now, come to think of it, no one did!" We often forget to say 'thank you'!

Every Sunday we go to Church. Why? There are many reasons, one of which is this: we go to Church to give thanks to God. Through our prayers and our hymns and our offerings, we say, "Thank you Father God for loving us; thank you for guiding us through our lives; thank you for all your good gifts; thank you very especially for the Lord Jesus". You could say in fact that Sunday is thanking day! The Church is a thanking place! Christians are thanking people!

Children's Prayer



Thank you, God, for all the presents we receive at Christmas.
Help me to remember
that all happiness comes from you.
Dear God, please give your love to
anyone who has no one to love
them at Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and hopefully a Happy and Healthy 2021. Please take care and stay safe.

Anne Lamond

Jordan has welcomed and is still welcoming refugees from neighbouring countries, especially Syria and Iraq - Christian refugees who have fled and left everything for their faith. Working alongside local churches the Jordanian Bible Society reached out to reflect the life of God to people (particularly refugees) who are suffering hardship by helping with their basic needs. The Bible Society is also empowering the local church through Bible provision and resources to reflect the true loving image and heart of acceptance of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for stability and safety in Jordan in the midst of the surrounding conflicts. Please also pray that each and every refugee will find and get to know the journey of real strength in Jesus amidst the hardship they are enduring.

Christmas Eve Prayer

Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure,
Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness,
Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts and show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of peace.

A Prayer for Christmas Day

Heavenly Father today we celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus Christ. He came to earth to bring your love to all. Come to our hearts and make your life real to us.

The world changed when Jesus came and now may you transform us, our families and friends through faith in Christ and let us find hope and peace in you for every day in our lives beginning this Christmas.

In Jesus' name, Amen

A Message for the Coming Year

When the night is dark - reach out for a star
When the world disappoints you - reach out for dreams
When sadness surrounds you - reach out for love
And always, always reach out for hope.
Hope - is only a prayer away!

Jim Currie

Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts for 10 months ended 31 October 2020
(excluding Guild and Clubs)

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2020	2019
RECEIPTS	£	£
Offerings	50,645	59,988
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	14,649	9,378
Donations	1,590	2,403
Weddings & Funerals	920	800
Hall lets	5,956	17,290
Contributions from congregational organisations	1,300	1,445
Fund raising events (net income)	2,658	10,467
Other income (net)	<u>763</u>	<u>991</u>
Total receipts	<u>78,481</u>	<u>102,762</u>

Notes:

- Offerings are down by 16% 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. The main cause of reduction is open plate offerings.
- Tax recovered on Gift Aid is ahead of last year through earlier timing of claims.
- Fundraising from the Minister's sponsored slim reached £1,664 by the end of October, with more to come in November. Last year's total includes the Summer Fair.
- Salary costs have been reduced by a total of £5,562 from the government's Job Retention Scheme. We are making economies in other spending. In the first 10 months of the year we have incurred a deficit of £21,747, due to the combination of lost income from hall lets, fundraising, and offerings.

Members of the congregation who cannot manage to Services can continue their regular giving by sending cheques, payable to Scone & St Martins Parish Church, to the Treasurer, Scone & St Martins Parish Church, 25 Angus Rd, Scone, PH2 6QU. Thank you for your continuing support. Because of the significant depletion in our reserves this year, we are making a special Appeal (see Minister's Christmas Greeting and Financial Appeal letter). Account details are Scone & St Martins Parish Church, Bank of Scotland, Sort Code 80-22-60, Account Number 11611468.

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