

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



Church News

September 2021

Parish Register

Deaths

7 July 2021 Caterina McLauchlan, Scone
16 July 2021 Nancy Edwards, Scone
23 August 2021 Margaret Young, Scone

Church News

Material for the October 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 23 September 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

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 Friends,

Just a little note from the Manse to say I do hope you have been enjoying the summer and I long for us all to return to Morning Worship. Now that you have managed to catch up with families and friends after the lifting of necessary restrictions of Covid, and that the schools are back, may we know a life experience resembling greater normality. Mike Moir will cover arrangements in his letter. He has worked hard on all the Covid advice, changes and regulations throughout this testing time, and I am sure we are all grateful. It is not an envious task. He has agreed to continue the duties of Session Clerk and to support you and me during these times of challenge, and has experience that is up to the minute and helpful to us all. Are you aware that worship is approximately 30 mins in respect of mask wearing, but we are allowed to sing behind our masks?

I am aware that the Kirk Session and the Clerk are moving towards the organisations commencing. How good it will be to see many of them back. I hope and pray that many of you who volunteered before to help with flower distribution and serving in the hub and at lunches will give consideration to making plans to return and that we may enjoy your company again. No one is under duress, but how lovely it would be, many have mentioned, to have more fellowship and friendship. Garden parties will not be so frequent in the autumn and winter, and indeed those who have been much on their own in all seasons would welcome meeting up with others again.

If you are not volunteering at the moment, or if you are but feel you could offer a little more time, please contact me. I would appreciate some more volunteers for a variety of fresh initiatives that I am working on at the moment. The Manse telephone number is 01738 (Scone) 551942.

You must be enjoying seeing some more housing going up. Our Communications Convener has a nice leaflet prepared, and I am writing a welcoming and pastoral letter. All through the parish of Scone and St Martins new housing is popping up, and it would be good for our new residents to hear from us.

You will be happy to hear that we will admit New Members, look forward to a Baptism, and celebrate a Wedding! We also look forward to celebrating the living and the lives of loved ones lost during the pandemic. In addition, Harvest is coming up, as are other Special Services of Thanksgiving, in Church and in the Open Air.

Wishing you and your loved ones good health and happiness.

Every Blessing,

Maudeen

News Snippets from the Minister

The Sunday School commences on the first Sunday of September. The Boys Brigade will have recommenced by the time you receive this magazine (Burnside Halls). Guides and Brownies return in September (Balforno Road Halls).

Doors Open Day will be on Saturday 18 September when both church buildings will be open to the public from 1.00 pm until 3.00 pm. So please invite any friends who may wish to know a bit more about the buildings to come along and have a look round.

Harvest will soon be upon us. As mentioned to the Harvest Team and at the Kirk Session, how lovely it would be to make this a real Service of Thanksgiving! Note in your diaries 26 September. It would be super to festoon the Church with floral and fruit displays and to make this a time of Financial Offering. The Harvest Offering we are encouraged to use to our benefit as a congregation but given that the Church of Scotland is not without its financial struggles, owing to Covid, it would be lovely to have a healthy amount to share with the wider Church. I simply leave that thought with you. (The National Deficit rumoured is 18 million!)

The Guild Commences on 12 October at 2.30 pm: I am looking forward to commencing the Guild Year with an upbeat and stirring presentation. The Guild is open to women and men of all ages and the programme is full of variety.

Wedding: On 21 October we look forward to the Marriage of Katrina Elizabeth Guthrie to Mr Scott Harvey.

The Boys Brigade Dedication Service is on 24 October. Our boys have returned and new boys are made welcome! Note for diary – 24 October Dedication Service.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is in October, ie 31 October, the day you get an extra hour in your bed. Please bring your portion of bread and wine.

The first Sunday in November is All Saints. 7 November

The second Sunday in November is Remembrance Sunday, 14 November
28 November is Advent Sunday

December brings its Christmas Celebrations and Baptisms! Perhaps some will have swallowed sufficient vitamins by December that we can venture Carol Singing. Keep positive and optimistic! As our 90 year olds and over 100 year olds would tell you – it is the key to much!

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! And this I believe. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

QUESTION? When are we having our Christmas Fair? Who would like to volunteer to help organise such an event? We have now missed out on our annual church fair for two years and it did provide a substantial amount of income. A Christmas Fair would be different and smaller but could provide much needed income for the church. So please consider helping with this and let me know as soon as possible.

WORSHIP - is in St Martins at 9.30am and at 10.45am in Scone. We are in Scone New in September and November and in Scone Old in October and December. A 12 noon service will be trialled, again, in September, and I hope to be able to have Night Kirk on offer in the winter months.

INVITATIONS to the New Housing are going out. Hopefully these will be delivered by the time you read this but if you wish to 'phone the manse and check on this and add your name to the volunteers list I'll be delighted to hear from you. Tel 551942.

A TIME OF CHANGE - Big, big, changes are afoot in the Church of Scotland. There will be closures of a number of churches. Ministers will be retiring and not replaced. I'm not ready for that yet, though. However, before long in the Church of Scotland, generally speaking, things may not be as they ever have been. There is much to be addressed!

Now is not the time to sit on the fence. If you or younger members of your family would like to explore membership of the Church or become more active in the life of the Church, please don't delay. I'd be delighted to hear from you. Just phone me at the manse. Come and explore.

AFTER EIGHT CLUB: Would an After Eight Club interest you? This would be an evening with a very varied programme, a mix of the relaxing and enlivening. Write in and throw in your suggestions.

SO DELIGHTED: I'm just back from an active week away and have returned to lively and active interest in the Church in numerous ways. Wow! It is great. Keep it up, Scone and St Martins. Ring the door bell, buzz the 'phone. Relate, request, suggest, respond, volunteer, recognise the manse or vestry is a place of pastoral encounter - all these things have been happening and they have been good! They make for life and verve in the Kirk, thank you!

LOOKING FOR: Christmas recipes, funny stories, sketches, cartoons, crafty idea, imaginative offerings, printable jokes – All for a Christmas Publication for Church Funds. Roll them in now via email or post. And if you wish to give a hand with this, let me know!

If you wish to join the Church, let me know. Others are doing so, you might like company! Tel. 551942

Lots more in the pipe-line. All the best! Maudeen

Maudeen

Acting Session Clerk's Report

By the time you read this, some more changes will have taken place. Social distancing and the two metre rule no longer applies to the churches or the halls. Masks still have to be worn and names and telephone numbers still have to be given at the door and hand sanitising is still in place. We are not yet allowed to put back in place the transport scheme but individuals may, if they so wish, transport people to church but as an individual, not as part of a church scheme. Changes are taking place on a weekly basis, so some of the above items may have changed by the time you read this.

We have had a proper Kirk Session meeting since the last issue of Church News. By proper, I mean we were all in the same room for the first time in nearly 18 months. The halls are also due to reopen in September, but several groups have decided to wait a bit longer before committing to restart, and given the current rise in cases, this is quite understandable.

As many of you may already know, Janet Cathro has decided to retire as cleaner of the Burnside halls and as the organiser of the teas/coffees at Burnside after the morning service. I think she started the teas in 1985, so it is fair to say that she is due a long and happy retirement and that she will now get her cup of tea made for her. Just for a wee change!

We have decided to restart the teas/coffees after morning service, but there will be some changes from what was done previously. Masks will have to be worn until you are seated. Biscuits will be supplied but handed over with tongs by those on duty.

Hopefully, we are moving nearer to what might be considered normal, but we must still keep an eye on what is happening in the wider world. It will be great to be back to normal services and the ability to stop and have a chat. The Kirk Session is looking at the possibility of reopening the Hub and the fortnightly lunches, but this will depend on what happens over the next month and if we are able to get sufficient volunteers to assist. So, if you have time on your hands and would like to volunteer to help at the Hub – contact Ian MacKinnon 551975 or the lunches – contact Margaret McMillan 551560.

Mike Moir, Acting Session Clerk



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2021

Your kindness and generosity makes such a difference, receiving a shoebox brings so much joy. We are looking ahead to our Shoe Box Appeal 2021 and to helping vulnerable communities across Eastern Europe. We trust we will be able to deliver boxes and bags to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. (from Blythswood website)

We have still to hear from Blythswood but we know that this year's shoebox appeal is going ahead so this is advance warning.

Leaflets are now available from Marian or Moira and will be available at church from 5 September. You may want to keep your eyes open for items for your shoeboxes. It is likely that they will have to be with us by the last Sunday in October.

If you would like to donate money to this appeal then this would also be very welcome.

We will update you as we find out more.

Marian Forgan and Moira Daly

Tea/Coffee After Morning Worship (Scone Old and Scone New)



You will be pleased to hear that teas and coffees resumed on 29 August 2021. It was nice to see everyone enjoying chatting with friends over a cuppa.

We need names for the rota to set up the teas, serve and clear up. Can you help? If so, please contact me on 01738 552064 or marianforgan@gmail.com.

Can we take this opportunity to thank Janet Cathro who has retired after many years of making tea at Burnside. We appreciate all the hard work she has put into this and many other jobs around the church and halls.

Marian Forgan

Pastoral Notes

Already the year is turning, plums and apples are ripening and I notice some trees already taking on autumn colour. Signs too, that church and community life is awakening.

Sunday Teas – From 29 August tea and biscuits will be available after church services. This will give us a chance to catch up and fill the gaps which have grown in our community.

Transport – Unfortunately, under Church of Scotland rules, organised lists are still not permitted. With mutual agreement one can ‘lift’ a friend so please help those less able if you can.

Fellowship Lunch – Fellowship Lunch has been much missed by regulars and we hope to start with an October lunch on 7 October 2021 – see details under Fellowship Lunch.

Residential Homes – In the village residents and staff of the homes have endured the days and months of the pandemic with great fortitude. We send all good wishes to them. The minister is preparing for church services to begin again as visiting restrictions are gradually eased. We look forward to seeing old and new friends soon. Unfortunately, singing at these services will be refined to recordings due to Home restrictions.

Harvest Celebration - The thanksgiving service is on 26 September in Scone New Church. The church will be decorated but if you wish to make a contribution please bring goods or a donation for the foodbank.

It has been good to have positive news to share. We all know the virus is still active and wherever we are, whatever we are doing, we need to act with care - masks, hand sanitiser, distancing etc and follow the rules at each event.

Good wishes to all.

Margaret McMillan, Convenor Pastoral Committee



Fellowship Lunch

Thursday 7 October 2021 12.30 pm

at Burnside hall

After these long months, our team hopes to welcome you to this Fellowship Lunch meal. The above date is provisional and we will update you as soon as possible.

Soup is of course on the menu, but some changes have been made in the interests of health and safety. There will be no lunch in Balforno Road Hall in October.

These simple regulations will need to be observed:

- Hand Gel will be available for use on entering and leaving
- Social Distancing will be in practice
- Masks will be worn in the hall except when sitting at the table
- All names and numbers will be noted for test and trace

This looks a lot of fuss but is really what we have been doing in shops etc for months. Sorry we cannot provide organised transport at this time but please come along if you can. Any questions please call: Margaret McMillan on 551560, Pastoral Committee

Children's Story - Peg Pennyworth

Skelton Castle is in Yorkshire in the north of England. In days gone by, Mrs Wharton lived there. She was an unusual person – eccentric is the word. An eccentric person is someone who keeps doing rather unusual things.

When Mrs Wharton bought goods in the shops, she always bought the smallest possible quantity of anything – a few potatoes, a handful of grapes, two apples, two onions, a tiny piece of cheese hardly enough for a mouse, one rasher of bacon.

Mrs Wharton's friends nicknamed her "Peg Pennyworth". That points to the fact that she never spent more than a few pennies at a time. She was very careful with her money. It's interesting and really surprising, that she was very well off and lived to be 103 years old.

I hope your friends would give you a happier nickname than Mrs Wharton's. How about Colleen – cheerful, Rowan – gentle, David – helpful, Elizabeth – generous, Matthew – kind. Now that would be good! Though whether you will be rich and live to 103 – well I just don't know!!

Children's Prayer

At Play

For all the strength I have
To run and jump and play
For making me just as I am
I thank you God today.



Anne Lamond



Life and Work has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland for over 140 years. Life and Work Sunday was marked on 29 August with a celebration.

Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers across the spectrum, from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics, and the arts.

Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current social and moral issues; a monthly meditation and regular articles on the spiritual side of life; reviews of the latest books, videos, and Christian resources; and regular features on the Church worldwide.

To encourage new subscribers, Life and Work are offering a promotion which is valid until 30 September 2021:

- Annual PRINT subscription - Buy 12 issues for the price of 10 and pay only £30. Purchase and save at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe_using_promotion_code_LWS2021
- Annual DIGITAL subscription – receive 34% when you buy 12 issues and pay only £13.99. Purchase and save at <https://pktmags.com/lwspromo>

Anne Lamond and Audrey Cooper

Scone New Church Flowers



I know many of you have been missing the flower pedestal arrangement in Scone New during the past 18 Months. We are intending starting again in September. If you would like to make a donation towards flowers, please contact Val Grossart, tel 551348.

Date	Donating	Delivering
5 September	Nan Muirhead	Anne Duff
12 September	Clare Little	Clare Little
19 September	Margaret Lobban	Val Mathieson
26 September	Available	Susan Kean



GUILD

The Kirk Session having agreed to the opening of the halls, I am delighted to say that the Committee has met and mapped out a possible syllabus for the coming session, the first in the new strategy **Look Forward in Faith**. The theme for the year is **Lights and Bushels**.

Due to the decision to open the halls being only recently being made, the session will start on Tuesday 12 October at 2.30 pm in the Balformo Road Hall. The ongoing pandemic and the associated uncertainties have led the Committee to curtail, slightly, the number of meetings held each month. Instead of 3 meetings as previous there will be 2 – one afternoon meeting and one evening meeting. The afternoon meeting will be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and the evening meeting on the 4th Tuesday. Afternoon meetings will be at Balformo Road and evening meetings at Burnside. Also, common sense and advice from Guild HQ informed the Committee that it would be wiser to arrange speakers from the locality or through the Guild office.

At the time of writing, the only confirmed meeting for October is on 12 October with Rev Maudeen MacDougall talking on the theme. While some speakers have been confirmed throughout the session, hopefully, the other speakers approached will be confirmed soon – further details in the next issue of Church News.

So, who attends Guild meetings? Is it someone who is

- female
- middle-aged/elderly
- a tea maker
- a scone/cake provider
- always serious or straight-laced
- a twin-set wearer
- grey-haired
- spectacle wearing
- hymn singing

NO – IT'S YOU – anyone can be part of the Guild –

- male or female
- all talents, skills and personalities welcome
- wear what you like – there's no uniform!

Yes we do sometimes sing hymns and we sometimes have speakers on very serious topics but we also have many light-hearted, entertaining meetings with much laughter being heard and **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**.

I make no apology for repeating the above, originally published 6 years ago, as it is still as relevant today as then.

Christine Munro



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

‘Do everything in love’ (1st Corinthians 16:14)

This month I would like to share part of a letter which I received from Christian Aid. It is intended for all of you who so generously support the work of Christian Aid.

‘Thank you for the loving support you have given through Christian Aid to global neighbours who are battling poverty around the world. Like you, I believe in being there for my neighbours, from all faiths and none. That’s why I work with Christian Aid in Burundi.

I really believe that love connects us all – and that every time we reach out to others, we make the circle of love even bigger and stronger. So today I am delighted to be able to reach out to you, with loving wishes and uplifting stories from my neighbourhood and beyond, in our global community. We are all in this together, but, if it were not for people like you, many of us would not be here today – strong in the knowledge that you and others are standing in solidarity with us.

Consolate, who lives in Southern Burundi, is a mum whose children were at risk of malnutrition. Poverty severely limited her family’s diet: ‘My spouse and I had no knowledge of nutrition and we didn’t have enough food for our children.’ Through a Christian Aid project, Consolate gained the knowledge and skills she needed to turn these problems around. ‘I learned how to feed my children a nutritious diet using local foods. I learned how to grow vegetables and now have my own vegetable garden.’

With every good wish to you and your family,
Blaise Kubwayo, Health Project Officer, Burundi.

How Christian Aid is helping in the Global COVID 19 crisis. - For our global neighbours battling poverty, lack of water, food and healthcare, there is very little hope of a vaccine rollout. Thanks to people like you, Elizabeth, an elderly widow in Nigeria who is raising three of her orphaned grandchildren, received a COVID 19 hygiene kit to protect herself and her grandchildren, Mary, Dookeger and Oryiana.

Thank you from Christian Aid.

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

Company Section

Having been unable to meet in a regular fashion (and at sometimes not at all) for some 18 months the Company is restarting soon.

- The Company/Senior Sections (P7 to S6) will start back on Thursday 2 September at 19:00.
- The Junior Section (P4 to P7) will have their first meeting on Wednesday 1 September at 18:30.
- The Anchor Boys (P2 and P3) will also resume on Wednesday 1 September at 18:00.

All meetings are held in the Burnside Halls at Scone Old.

There are vacancies in all sections. Each Section has a varied programme of activities suited to the age group and boys and through the year there are events with other companies locally and (for the older boys) nationally.

For more information contact:

Kenny McAlpine

Captain and Junior Section

kenny.mcalpine@sky.com

07963380332

01738 553038

Iain Lamond

Officer in charge Company
Section

iainlamond@btinternet.com

01828 670626

07740780498

Mark Birrell

Anchor Boys

dbrblb@blueyonder.co.uk

01738 560923

07882572653

You can also access The Boys' Brigade website at <https://boys-brigade.org.uk> for more information.

Iain Lamond

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it”. Proverbs 22:6 Teenagers in many urban areas live in places where gang culture is rife. Many of them come from fragmented homes where their parents have left the country for work and they live instead with grandparents or an uncle.

Often these young people have a hard time choosing their path in life, but schools provide a safe place for them. The Bible Society in El Salvador is working with schools to teach Biblical values. They aim to encourage pupils to trust what God says in his Word, become less fearful and make the right life choices.

Please pray: that the teenagers participating in the project will find God's purpose for their lives. Pray that God will protect them, too, from the negative influences of gang culture.

Prayer Notes

Be still, for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place:

He comes to cleanse and heal, To minister his grace -

No work too hard for him. In faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place.

Suffering for Christ was normal for the early Christians, its scars were seen as badges of honour settled by the Lord. Suffering is normal for many Christians around the world today, through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Even when persecution does not occur the disciples of Christ are always misfits in mainstream society and at the very least suffer in this way. Jesus warned us that the world will hate us because we do not brone to it. Writing to believers in a context where suffering is the norm, Paul tells us to be "patient". This is a very positive and active kind of patience and a passive endurance. It has been described as a "brave patience" which perseveres in bearing the load whatever it is which refuses to complain, weaken or be discourage and refuses also to try to slip out from under the load.

And now the words of an Indian Christian martyred in Assam:

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

No turning back, no turning back!

Jim Currie

Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts and Payments for 7 months ending 31 July 2021
(excluding Guild and Clubs)

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2021	2020
RECEIPTS	£	£
Offerings	35,445	33,829
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	7,726	11,572
Donations	625	1,520
Weddings and funerals	560	790
Contributions from congregational organisations	300	1,300
Hall Lets	0	5,926
Fundraising events	657	1,429
Other income	<u>773</u>	<u>763</u>
 Total receipts	 <u>46,086</u>	 <u>57,129</u>

Notes:

- Offerings are up by nearly 5% on last year, due mainly to the timing of some large gift aid receipts. The return of services is not yet being reflected in regular offerings, and this is demonstrated by the comparison with the 'pre-covid' 2019 total, against which we are down by 15%.
- Tax recovered is down compared with 2020. There are two claims submitted (nearly £3000) which will show some catching up by September.
- Donations last year included £1000 from The Boys Brigade.
- A £300 contribution has been received from The Guild.
- Fundraising so far is from further Recipe Book sales and the Sponsored Walk, with more to come in August. Last year's figure included a coffee morning and part of the Minister's sponsored slim. Hopefully some further fundraising later this year!
- It is hoped that the resumption of hall lets will also provide a boost to the last quarter of the year.
- Our salaries expense (not shown above) has been reduced by Job Retention Scheme grants of £4160.

Robin Walker, Treasurer

CONTACT DETAILS

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Session Clerk	
Deputy Session Clerk	Mike Moir Tel 01738 551549 Email: mikemoir@blueyonder.co.uk
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Editor Church News	Moira Daly Tel 01738 552773 Email: moiradalyscone54@gmail.com

CONVENERS

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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