

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



Church News

November/December 2021

Parish Register

Deaths

23 August 2021	Margaret Young, Scone
28 August 2021	Simpson Buglass, Stormontfield
29 August 2021	Elizabeth Beedie, Scone
9 September 2021	Ernie Miller, Scone

New Members

10 October 2021	Ricky Martin Elaine Morgan Penny Sangster Tom Sangster
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Baptisms

17 October 2021	Hedaya Morgan
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Wedding

21 October 2021	Scott Harvey and Katrina Guthrie
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Church News

Material for the next edition should be forwarded to the church office (tel 553900; email sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net) or to the editor Moira Daly (moiradalyscone54@gmail.com) by mid January (date to be confirmed). Please send in any items you think will be of interest to the congregation.

Church Office

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

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Contact: 01738 553900 or email sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net

Dear Friends,

Has this not been a quick year? I am relieved to hear our young members so comment. Along with melting glaciers and increased temperatures, is time moving more quickly? I put it down to the variety of challenges that have come our way in 2021, and doubt that many have wearied in well doing. It has been truly splendid how all the generations have combined their gifts to give encouragement one to the other, from the smiles of our little babies and children through to the wisdom of our senior members. In that regard, I am printing the report on the life of the Church that has gone to OSCR and to the Church of Scotland reflecting some of the on goings in Church life and in the life of our organisations. Look out for it in these pages.

More recently, we have been happy to welcome new members by profession of faith: Elaine Morgan, Penelope and Thomas Sangster, and Richard Martin, and also to welcome baptisms. So far, we will have rejoiced in Hedaya Morgan's Baptism. Hedaya is great-grand-daughter of our oldest member, Mary Menzies. We look forward to three more baptisms before Christmas. Only this week we had the pleasure of the first wedding since Covid. Katrina Guthrie and Scott Harvey married in the Scone Old Sanctuary on Thursday 21 October 2021. The weather was perfect and set the tone for the day, our Congratulations.

We continue to offer Communicants Classes for those intending to join the Church at Christmas. Now, the variety on offer Sunday by Sunday until Christmas is quite amazing. This magazine is published on the October Communion Sunday in Scone Old Sanctuary. In the month of November this year, we are in Scone New Sanctuary and on the first Sunday, 7 November, we look forward to the baptism of baby Olivia Rebecca Sangster, daughter of Penelope and Thomas. Olivia's relatives and friends will be joining us for the baptism and her grand-fathers have served as Elders, though not in Scone. Then, 14 November is Remembrance Sunday. On the 21st, Ian Scott is taking the service, and the 28th is Advent Sunday. That is the Sunday when all whom we know have lost loved ones are invited to join in worship and to light a candle. It is good to renew pastoral contact, though many of the relatives of those who have passed on keep in touch.

In the month of December, we are in Scone Old Sanctuary. On the first Sunday in December, the Gift Service is a time when you are invited to bring a gift for a child or adult. Read all about in a letter from Moira and Marian. There will be a surprise element to this service.

On the second Sunday in December, the 12th, we offer Advent/Christmas Communion. On the third Sunday in December, the 19th, which is the 4th Sunday in Advent, the Sunday before Christmas, we look forward to two baptisms when Elise Strachan and Ellie Wark will be christened. Elise's

grand-parents are Iain and Peggy Lamond and Ellie's grand-parents are Mike and Helen Moir. Ah, but this is the Christmas of the little children, 4 babies and young children, and we will make the most of it! Thinking in an ecumenical way, I needn't tell you who the Church Leader was who proclaimed, "Go forth and multiply".

Christmas Eve is on a Friday. There will be a Children's Service that night and a Midnight Service but no Christmas Day Service this year as Christmas Sunday is so close, a Time of Rejoicing!

We sincerely hope that irresponsible behaviour by some in society does not throw the country into Lockdown. Should that happen, tune into the TV, and please say a prayer for your loved ones, your neighbours, your local Church and Community, and the World-wide Church and Global Community.

New Year and Epiphany Services follow in January and it is my hope that on 22nd January, the Sunday nearest January 25th, in the evening, we will recommence Night Kirk with a Service to mark the Conversion of St Paul and to give thanks for Robbie Burns. This seemed to be appreciated on the last occasion – not to be missed!

My Christmas letter is in another section of the magazine and some STOP PRESS NEWS.

Best wishes,
Maudeen

STOP PRESS: COP 26! <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

COP 26! You may buy Life and Work online and access this month's Free Supplement on COP 26. Whereas I would like to be at it, it would be nonsensical to attempt to reach Glasgow from Perth. However, there is no reason why in Scone, a place of much natural beauty, we should not hold Prayers at 1 pm at the David Douglas Memorial in the graveyard of Scone Old Kirk and if the weather is unpleasant hold these prayers in the sanctuary. It would also be possible to hold the Scone March in support of those concerned about Climate Change, Respect for Planet Earth including "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small". Contact me, if interested. Notice is also going out to the Schools and Community Organisations. May I suggest Wednesdays at 1 pm on the 3rd and 10th November. Some will lead prayer, others will enjoy looking around them and offering silent prayer.

From the "Eco- Chaplain": An edited version: "COP is a globally momentous event on our doorstep and a prime subject for prayer. Scotland has the

privilege of welcoming an unprecedented number and a diversity of visitors to what will certainly be a less than perfect gathering, and out of balance between rich and poor. When disciplined and cautious scientists express concern, with the unanimity and urgency we are seeing, about the harm humanity has done to the planet and to the creatures on whom we so depend, surely as Christians we can do no other but sit up and take notice, determined to pray and act differently in every aspect of our own lives. Covid has taught us we can do this. There are many events, services and actions, in which churches can play a prominent and encouraging role. We will not, by small actions, 'fix' the world. Yet, prayer itself is a transformative action. We look to our faith to equip us for the challenges of today and tomorrow. It is time for the Church, visible in the communities in which we live and work, to be beacons of hope, joy, forgiveness, and Good News to every creature (Mark 16:15). Let us use this God-given opportunity to be leaders and workers towards a healthier world."

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small" is proving a popular hymn in these moments when more time has been afforded to get in tune with creation rather than prance around on humanity's treadmills. I the donkey who carried Mary, and the Cattle who observed in the stable, and the sheep who heard the angel song on the hillsides, and the birds who chirped to the Angel Song, are reflecting through time. We travelled purposefully to the Christ Child and the God man, and we knew blessing. Where and how are you travelling towards this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons? We can vouch that the birth of the Christ Child into our lives was profound yet humble. It was a rich gift, beyond any our money can buy, in the simple form of an infant, but such a wondrous gift to accept. Will you accept and offer the gift of blessing this Christmas and appreciate such blessing into the New Year, and beyond.

Happy Christmas Blessing, From: Little donkey on the dusty road, treading onwards with his friends, and following the star, even through the night, to Bethlehem.

I live in hope that on 7th December at 3 pm all who give thanks for the comfort of their pets throughout this time of challenge might assemble in the graveyard, sing a hymn or two with them and have a prayer of thanksgiving. Yes, and I know, many a pet is highly musical!

Maudeen

I wonder what this Christmas will hold for everyone. Hopefully you will not be locked down and be able to celebrate the Season with families and friends, and to bring in the New Year of 2022. Christmas is the second most important festival of the Christian Year and I hope you will be able to join us. Christmas is such a special time of blessing. Love came down at Christmas, a love that is constant in good times and bad if we are open to receive the Love and the Spirit of Christ and let it enter us. But you tell me, many are fearful of not having the supply of food, drink, and gifts, due to Brexit and to Covid, and to the fuel supply, and to the lack of lorry drivers, and to the financial situation. How shall we love? We shall love and deeply love. Look into the eyes of the children and adults who value a smile and a cuddle. Look at all we have accumulated, is there someone who might like a little gift from our home, or something home-made. It might be something we've baked, sewn, painted, knitted or planted. Christmas is not about lavish spending, it is about a whole lot more.

Now, I know, many are generous in their charitable giving and God bless you for it. There are so many good causes to which we can gift from our resources. Think on those who will benefit, is that not sufficient to make your eyes light up and your hearts warm? Maybe even your children and grandchildren would like to feel ownership of the cheque writing and be encouraged to think of those they've brought happiness to. There are many ways to lighten one's darkness, including the gift of prayer. This prayer is the Collect for Advent, the first of four Sundays leading to Christmas Day: Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

I write this as we move to the changing of the clocks and am reminded of these words from the beginning of John's Gospel; the prologue we call it: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

The Light that shines in the darkness and the love that is offered us this Christmas is the Christ Light and the Love of Christ. It is offered us in heart, mind and spirit that we may share these blessings with others. These words come from our hymn book and were written by John Bell and Graham Maule: Before the world began, one Word was there; grounded in God he was, rooted in care; by him all things were made, in him was love displayed, through him God spoke and said: I am for you.

Life found in him its source, death found its end; light found in him its course, darkness its friend; for neither death nor doubt nor darkness can put out the

glow of God, the shout: I am for you. The Word was in the world which from him came; unrecognised he was, unknown by name; one with all humankind, with the unloved aligned, convincing sound and mind: I am for you. All who received the Word, by God were blessed, sisters and brothers they of earth's fond guest. So did the Word of grace, proclaim in time and space, and with a human face: I am for you.

Wishing you the True Blessings of Christmas and a Happy New Year when it dawns.

Maudeen

A Reflection of the Annual Report: 2020 – 21
(This was submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)

Amid the challenges of Covid, the congregation of Scone and St Martins has not been inactive. The use of two sanctuaries each Sunday with an early morning service in St Martins and the offering of two times of worship in Scone facilitated us having numbers above the average as sanctuaries were able to open again. 104 attendees were recorded on Easter Sunday. During Lockdown we made the most of the skills we had. Some tuned in to Worship on the Quay, Songs of Praise, Facebook and into our own Worship on the Web, and we have had visitors online from outwith our Perthshire Parish of Scone and St Martins. Some of our elderly who like to read have had the printed script of our prayers, hymns, and thought for the day delivered to them. When preparing worship for the web, we have been glad of You Tube, and contribution from congregational members and the Boys' Brigade to the offering of prayers, readings (sometimes in the Scots and Doric), and to children's talks. Dependent on the time of year, presentation has varied. "Try Praying" is offered by the Prayer Group which also receives prayer requests. The Bible Study Group, the Boys' Brigade, the Emergency Pandemic Team, and others, met through Zoom. The Kirk Session circulated business and sought opinion and agreement for decision by email and hand delivery.

Communication has been very good in these challenging circumstances. Church News, the congregational magazine, containing newsy update and good pastoral and financial update, has been published and delivered to all on the Roll, albeit on a bi-monthly schedule. The website is much used, including when we are unable to gather for worship in the churches - Worship, Church Magazine, Christian Aid and other initiatives, Prayer, and a Main Page of fresh news, encouragement, and suggestions for keeping upbeat and active, are offered weekly. Facebook is used to keep the congregation and followers informed, with daily postings of prayers, anecdotes and memories. The Church of Scotland website and Facebook pages also allow folk to feel part of the wider church. A leaflet/card of

welcome has been produced with intended distribution to the new housing. When churches are open for public worship, the Perthshire Advertiser is used to publicise the times of services and to remind worshippers that Government and Church of Scotland guidelines are followed. This also gives reminder that though the buildings are closed the Church is active.

Pastoral Care: Committee members have telephone contact with folk on the pastoral and harvest care lists. Neighbourly support in the village is strong. When appropriate and practical, soup and baking is shared and shopping assisted. Flower deliveries recognise illness, bereavement, celebrations of births, big 'O' birthdays and special anniversaries. Good use is made of floral notecards to members resident in the two residential homes and two sheltered housing complexes in the parish. At Harvest, over 100 cards were hand-delivered. Effort is made to brighten dark winter days by delivery of messages, flowers, pots of spring bulbs to over 60 single people, particularly isolated by the pandemic. The pastoral committee's support is ongoing. Elders maintain contact with their districts by telephone and other appropriate means. The Minister operates a daily pastoral phone line to all on the congregational roll, making live contact with members across the parish area. In addition to funerals, pre and post bereavement care is given; visits are made as necessary and within guidelines. Pastoral care also is afforded online, and as necessary and appropriate, through appointment made to safe space in the manse garden or vestry. With three schools in the parish, telephone contact is maintained.

Education: though Education Committee work is curtailed at present, live effort continues to appoint a Youth Leader. Contact is maintained with Church and Community volunteers who run The Hub. Prior to lockdown it was good to have worship led by the Boys' Brigade and on Thinking Day to have Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts, and Cubs re-associating themselves with the Church and participating in the leading of worship. The early Christmas Eve Service for children was led by the Boys' Brigade and appreciatively received. Sunday school staff continues to maintain pastoral contact with their children. Effort is made to maintain links with hall users.

The Guild reports that though unable to meet in the usual way since March 2020, members keep in touch through telephone calls and notes/cards. A distanced afternoon tea was much appreciated when a small bag containing tea/coffee and sweet treats was delivered to members who consumed the contents at the same time on the same date - together though apart. Despite it being impossible to hold the usual fundraising events in support of projects, considerable sums were sent in March to the projects partnered with Cross Reach and the World Mission Council as part of the One Journey, Many Roads strategy. In session 2020-21 it is hoped alternative fundraising will benefit The Sailors' Society and Malawi Fruits.

Boys Brigade: 2020 started well with over 40 boys in the three sections. Usual programmes were followed with Company Section holding its first ever Burns Supper in January. The first Covid lockdown struck in March and meetings were abandoned for the remainder of the session. The Company Section restarted with outdoor activities at the beginning of September including a clean-up at the community Institute and a tidy up of part of the manse garden. Several outdoor activities were undertaken until the Section (complying with all distancing and sanitisation rules) was able to meet in the church hall from mid-November. 4 meetings were managed before the Christmas break. The Section led a Christmas Eve service in the Church. Unfortunately, the second lockdown hit two days later and the Section has not been able to further meet since then, although it is holding online events. The Junior and Anchor Boys Sections decided not to restart after the summer and to get underway in January but this has not been possible. The officers have, however, been maintaining contact with the boys.

Some General Congregational Activities: The congregation contributed to, published and sold out of its Lockdown Recipe Book ; sponsored the minister in weight loss for church funds, and pastoral care, to over £1800; made contribution to website worship, as did the Boys' Brigade, and generously contributed to the Christmas Appeal, mindful of the wider work of the Church and the National deficit/shortfall. Donations were made to Christian Aid, the Foodbank, and the Blythswood and Salvation Army Christmas Appeals. The tourist guide, Trip Advisor, gave a 5 star recommendation. (Among attributes listed was the living memorial to the fallen, poppies knitted by one of our senior members and appended to an evergreen). To achieve well in future years, we continue to recognise the importance of Faith sharing, inviting, nurturing, and welcoming new people to engagement and participation in the life and work of the Church. The needs of the young, elderly, and ages in between are important to us. We are active in meeting the challenges of the moment and in making preparation for the new normal. We continue to appreciate the services of our beadle, organists, secretary, and cleaners. Tribute is paid to the retired Session Clerk for dedicated service over recent years and to the Depute Session Clerk for dedicated service and especially throughout the pandemic, as also to the Treasurer for his attention to all things financial. Appreciation also is extended to the Roll keeper and Magazine Editor, to the Kirk Session for their diligence and support, and to all engaged in Christian Service. We seek and strive to meet the needs of our parish, and our mission and outreach continues. Minister, Office-bearers and Congregational members, from our regularly attending Centenarian to the youngest, have worked and are working to a strong Team effort.

Much work has been undertaken since the report has been written as many of you will be aware. We are here for you in all circumstances and appreciate

your prayerful, practical and financial support. Wouldn't it be great if in thanksgiving for having ventured out of Lockdown and met up with friends again we could surpass our achievements of last year!

Maudeen.

Acting Session Clerk's Report

We are due to have a Session meeting on 2nd November and a further meeting on 7th December to finalise items for the current year, as well as look ahead to 2022.

Things are slowly getting back to normal, but we are still some way from being allowed not to use masks in church, still having to "sign in" every Sunday and, in general, being aware that Covid 19 is not going away and every likelihood that as winter progresses, things may get even more difficult.

Having just returned from a week's holiday in England, it was very noticeable the difference in mask wearing by the public, with about 90% of people not wearing masks in shops, cinemas, etc, compared to here, where most people still seem to be masked when shopping.

We now have Christmas to look forward to and we can only hope that it will not be the same as last year when there so many restrictions on family gatherings.

Mike Moir, Acting Session Clerk

Fund Raising

The last 18 months have not been easy for any fund raising - but good news, we are off again.

Margaret Breckenridge has compiled a quiz about Scottish Songs which will be on sale soon.



Money Jars - On Communion Sunday 31 October and into November we will be handing out small jars of jam or marmalade which you can use with our compliments. Once the little jar is empty, please wash it and fill it with any loose change - coppers, 50ps, £1 or £2 coins. Once filled, jars can be handed into church, given to your elder or any member of the Fundraising Committee. If you aren't at church and would like to take part in this project, please contact me or use any jar/envelope you have available. Every little helps.

We hope to have a musical evening by end February, beginning of March 2022.

Please support our committee and get these events off to a good start.

Anne Lamond, 552262



Today is the day to start your Christmas Shopping - with a difference. Christian Aid have a variety of charity gifts for your family and friends which really make a difference. For example:

- for £9 you can send the gift of antibiotics. In conflict zones and refugee camps, antibiotic medicines can be life saving for vulnerable children.
- £25 buys an emergency disaster kit for a family who has lost everything in a disaster such as an earthquake or flood.
- £30 gifts the gift of clean water, with this gift, you can ensure a family affected by disaster is still able to access clean water every day.
- £15 can send an orphaned and vulnerable child to school in Kenya.
- £93 gives could help a child living in a refugee camp feel safe again, beginning with their recovery from trauma and grief.

For the full range of gifts, go to 'charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk'.

Traidcraft, who support Christian Aid as well as other charities working with the poorest of our world have a selection of Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, gift wrap and gifts as well as household items. You can view their range at 'traidcraftshop.co.uk'. Please consider buying some of your cards and gifts from Traidcraft - it can make such a difference to the poorest of the poor in our world.

Christian Aid wishes you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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



Gift Service

5 December 2021



Can you provide a Christmas gift which will go to the Salvation Army for distribution? Please bring your gift to either St Martins or Scone Old on 5 December 2021. If you decide to wrap your gift, please add a label to indicate who the gift is for. Your gift does not need to be wrapped. The gifts we took to the Salvation Army last year were very much appreciated and hopefully we can take as many gifts this year.

Moira Daly and Marian Forgan

Pastoral Notes

I am writing this on a beautiful blue sky morning which is such a joy after the damp and sodden days we've had recently. I am especially conscious of this as I have doubled my household with the arrival of Star, a little black Cavapoo puppy. She's keeping me busy – and making me smile, all good. I hope you were able to be in church to enjoy the service and harvest displays at the end of September. Thanks to all who gave their time and talents to prepare these and to all who contributed and delivered gifts for the Food Bank.

I am happy to report the first Fellowship Lunch for 18 months took place in October at Burnside Hall. It was lovely to gather and enjoy lunch together though we were restricted to commercially sourced food – following Church of Scotland guidelines. The next Burnside lunch is 4 November with the Christmas lunch on 2 December. Sadly we are unable to staff mid month lunches at Balforno Road but will work on it. Please share transport where practical as we are limited to one person per car. 551560/551549.

We have been invited to RDM Home to hold a Sunday service on October 24th. It will be great to meet and share with the residents who have been cut off far too long. A big thank you to the staff who have kept all safe and well over these months.

We all need to move forward cautiously but we hope and pray that the community of the church and village can relax in the company and support of each other.

With many blessings

Margaret McMillan, Convenor Pastoral Committee

Sunday Club



We are delighted to have a small group of children now at the Sunday Club and Lucy and Amy were delighted to welcome Hedaya who will have been baptised in our church before you read this. New children are always welcome.

Helen Moir



GUILD

The Guild opened the 2021-2022 session on 12 October when Rev MacDougall challenged us to reveal our hidden gifts and talents and to recognise the gifts and talents of our neighbours. She also asked us to consider how we could use our gifts and talents to serve the Church and not keep them hidden.

The members look forward to the rest of the session, in particular to hearing about the projects which we have decided to support –

The Vine Trust – the Kazunzu Village of Hope in Tanzania

Working with the Vine Trust and their partners on the ground, the Guild will help them take forward the development of a sustainable village with homes, a school, a health centre, a community hub and 40 individual homes.

Beat – ‘Blether with Beat’, Scotland

Eating disorders have a huge impact on young people and on their families. This project will help develop a network of young ambassadors who will work in schools, colleges and universities as well as with church congregations, the Boys’ Brigade, the Girls’ Brigade and school chaplains to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and to encourage people to seek help.

Forthcoming meetings:

9 November	2.30 pm, Balforno Road	Kazunu Village of Hope: The Vine Trust
23 November	7.30 pm, Burnside	Linus Quilts, Jane Sheldon
14 December	12.30 pm, Scone Arms	Christmas Lunch

Perth and Kinross Guilds Together

The P&KGC Committee has decided to hold an Advent Songs of Praise to replace the planned Afternoon Tea in November. This will take place at 2.30 pm on Friday 26 November in the North Church. It is hoped to have a member of the National Leadership Team present.

The Guild is a component part of the Church of Scotland and is open to everyone – we look forward to welcoming you. Just turn up at any meeting or speak to Christine Munro, Helen Moir or any Guild member you know.

Christine Munro

Company Section

It is great to be back holding face to face meetings rather than Zooming as we did for much of last year. We started back at the beginning of September with 16 boys. From our complement of 16 last year we are 4 down (two have been "lost" without explanation or response to enquiry; one has forsaken us for the football field; and Lewis Flood has gone off to university in Edinburgh. we wish him well in his studies. We have, however, had 4 boys transfer up from the Junior Section. Lewis O' Loughlin is now studying neuroscience at Dundee University but as he is staying at home he is still coming along on a Thursday night. We also wish him well in his studies. He has been given the rank of Staff Sergeant so that he can endeavour to gain his Queen's Badge. He is helping with the programme on a Thursday night. Ryan Mudie is travelling up from Dundee (where he is studying) each Thursday. We currently have 8 boys working towards the Queen's Badge as well as 3 boys working towards the President's Badge. Hopefully there will be a very big presentation event at the end of the session.

The BB have brought out a new award scheme and we are working within that. It has much more modern material than the old scheme (which is about 20 years old) and the boys are tackling it with enthusiasm. There have been big disappointments. BB HQ have decided that the National Competitions will not be held this session which means that we cannot defend our Scottish Chess Championship. Bells sports centre have bumped the Battalion off the Tuesday night bookings in favour of an entity who will be using the centre every Tuesday. Accordingly we are not able to hold our Battalion badminton; 5-a-side football; or our volleyball tournaments. It also looks as if we might also lose out dodge ball event as the usual hall is not available to us this year. It is not possible to get replacement premises for the bumped Bells events but we are trying to find somewhere for the volleyball.

The annual bonfire night is likely to go ahead on 6 November and we are hoping that we will be able to have a coffee morning of some sort at the beginning of December. We will be doing our Xmas card delivery service in December.

We are to be having a chess tournament this session and the boys will be playing for a trophy donated in name of Alex Collie who was a great mentor to the boys in the chess club.

Finally we do have capacity for new members - Boys from P7 up to S6.

Iain Lamond

Away in a manger: Don't all children love that Carol. Here are the words:

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head

The stars in the bright sky, looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray

Bless all the dear children In Your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Here is another carol that many love, written I am happy to admit by one of my contemporaries. Kathryn Galloway, a former Leader of the Iona Community, has contributed much including Hymns and Carols:

When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die

and landless, weary folk find strength to stand with heads held high, it's then we learn from those who wait to greet the promised day:

'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart. Be blest: prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God, forget to share their bread, they find their wealth an empty thing, their spirits are not fed.

For only just and tender love the hungry soul will stay.

And so God's prophets echo still: 'Be blest: prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth, the world turned upside down, and in the strength of woman's faith the Word of Life was born.

She knew that God would raise the low, it pleased her to obey.

Rejoice with Mary in the call, 'Be blest: prepare the way!'

And now the Peace Carol written by Shirley Erena Murray (b.1931), who has lived all her life in Aotearoa/New Zealand. She is descended from Scottish forebears. A former Methodist, now an 'ecumenical Presbyterian', her work appears in hymn books all over the world.

O little love who comes again, the Word made flesh to make God plain,
O Child who shines the Jesus light, disarm the world this Christmas night!

No heart so hard it may not move, no hate resist your open love;
defenceless in our hands you come to Herod's power, to Mary's home.

As all the wise look for your star, so I must follow where you are;
as you are light so I must be, so you are peace, be peace to me.

Shall we be singing familiar Carols? Of course, we shall. There are so many lovely ones. Much will depend on the weather as to whether we Carol sing but if you would like to, let me know. Maybe 12th December at 6.30 pm?

Maudeen

“You have taught children and infants to give you praise” Matthew 21, v16.

In the Dominican Republic, the Bible is one of the assigned textbooks in schools. Because of this, pupils want to have their own Bible, but for many this is not possible due to the levels of poverty.

Within the school environment, young people can often lose their values or develop bad attitudes or behaviour. Many can end up in trouble. The Society believes that these children and teenagers will have the opportunity of a better future if they can read the life-changing Word of God for themselves.

Please pray that God will touch both students and teachers alike and that the word will find its place in their hearts.

Prayer Notes

“Holy Spirit, heal us, help us while we sing
Breathe into the music of the praise we bring.
Holy Spirit, prompt us while we try to pray
Nearer come and teach us what we ought to say”

Prayer is our lifeline. It is one of the main channels through which God pours out his promised strength and grace into our lives. Without prayer, we are like an astronaut walking in space who has got cut off from their spaceship. We are floating endlessly, flailing around hopelessly and our limited supplies of resources will soon be exhausted. It is through prayer that we can endure our afflictions with brave patience and amaze unbelievable rejoicing in hope even when we are suffering. Many of us struggle to pray as we know we should. We realise that talking with our heavenly father is vital but still it drops down our list of priorities. Or we find the time to pray but cannot still our racing thoughts enough to speak, let alone listen.

“Have we trials and temptations, Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Just know our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer!

And finally, remember - Jesus did not promise us an easy life but he did promise that he would be close beside us through good and bad times – and that’s worth remembering isn’t it?

Jim Currie

Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts and Payments for 9 months ending 30 September 2021
(excluding Guild and Clubs)

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2021	2020
RECEIPTS	£	£
Offerings	51,806	44,717
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	10,679	11,572
Donations	756	1,530
Weddings and funerals	1,080	870
Contributions from congregational organisations	300	1,300
Hall Lets	108	5,956
Fundraising events	1,522	2,547
Other income	<u>773</u>	<u>763</u>
 Total receipts	 <u>67,024</u>	 <u>69,255</u>

Notes:

- Offerings are up by over 11% on last year, with larger attendances in September, combined with generous responses to the National Giving Day Appeal. The current total amount raised through the Appeal is over £3300, and a big Thank You is due to everyone who has contributed.
- Tax recovered has partially caught up with 2020.
- 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 (£204) and the Sponsored Walk (£1318).
- Hall lets have resumed, and will show up more strongly in the final quarter.
- Our salaries expense (not shown above) has been reduced by Job Retention Scheme grants of £4690.
- The improvement in offerings, and gradual resumption of hall lets, combined with low spending on maintenance, suggests that we should improve on last year's result, which was a deficit of £7946.

Robin Walker, Treasurer

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.

Scone and St Martins Parish Church of Scotland
Extracts from Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2020

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations	88,066	93,375
Fundraising activities	3,991	11,317
Grants received	6,552	430
Rental of premises	7,746	23,943
Grants for capital projects	2,000	8,000
Release of capital from Consolidated Fabric Fund	0	60,995
Release of revenue from Consolidated Fabric Fund	4,414	3,700
Other receipts	<u>4,036</u>	<u>7,450</u>
Total Receipts	<u>116,805</u>	<u>209,210</u>
Payments		
Ministries & Mission etc.	70,236	65,636
Staffing costs	19,647	19,375
Repairs & Maintenance	3,506	10,640
Refurbishment of Manse	0	37,144
Refurbishment of Halls	0	30,851
Heating & Lighting	9,701	9,432
Insurance	6,495	7,838
Printing & stationery	4,494	5,295
Equipment renewals	1,097	7,874
Other Payments	<u>9,575</u>	<u>14,864</u>
Total Payments	<u>124,751</u>	<u>208,949</u>
(Deficit)/ Surplus for Year	<u>(7,946)</u>	<u>261</u>

Statement of Balances

Bank & Deposit balances		
carried forward	<u>162,759</u>	<u>170,705</u>
Investments at market value	<u>35,061</u>	<u>36,431</u>

In 2020, income streams from hall lets and from fundraising were severely curtailed, due to covid restrictions. Offerings were not so badly affected, thanks to the congregation's generous response to the Christmas Appeal which raised over £4,000). Expenditure on repairs and renewals was kept to a minimum, and this helped to reduce the deficit.

The Financial Statements were approved by the Kirk Session on 17 March, 2021, and signed by the independent Examiner on 24 March, 2021. They have been submitted to the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Copies of the full Annual Report and Financial Statements are available on request. It is intended to hold a Stated Annual Meeting in 2022.

Robin Walker, Treasurer

Scone Rotas

	Welcoming Party	Reader	Beadle
Nov 7	Margaret McMillan, Ross Merson, Mike Moir	Ross Merson	Robbie Walker
14	Christine Munro, Margaret Nicol, Sheila Simpson	Christine Munro	Douglas Calderwood
21	Robin Walker, Ian Baillie, Hamish Breckenridge	Ian Baillie	Ian MacKinnon
28	Kate Carswell, Moira Daly, Marian Forgan	Marian Forgan	Ross Merson
Dec 5	Peggy Lamond, Clare Little, Anne Lamond	Peggy Lamond	Ron Cathro
12	Ian MacKinnon, Val Mathieson Margaret McMillan	Margaret McMillan	Ron Cathro
19	Ross Merson, Mike Moir Christine Munro	Mike Moir	Ron Cathro
26	Margaret Nicol, Sheila Simpson Robin Walker	Margaret Nicol	Ron Cathro
Jan 2	Ian Baillie, Hamish Breckenridge, Kate Carswell	Ian Baillie	Gordon Pirie
9	Moira Daly, Marian Forgan Ann Gellatly	Marian Forgan	Robin Walker
16	Anne Lamond, Peggy Lamond, Clare Little	Clare Little	Robbie Walker
23	Ian MacKinnon, Val Mathieson, Margaret McMillan	Margaret McMillan	Ian Baillie
30	Ross Merson, Mike Moir, Christine Munro	Ross Merson	Douglas Calderwood

Flowers

	Donating	Delivering
Nov 7	Audrey Cooper	Val Grossart
14	Available	Margaret McMillan
21	Anne Duff	Margaret Lobban
28	Available	Margaret Baillie

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 01738 553651 or, if she is unavailable, to Helen at 01821640560 or Frances at 01738 552681. Or, instead of phoning, 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.

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 Club	Helen Moir	01738 551549
Treasurer	Robin Walker	01738 551936

Scottish Charity No SC007094