

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



Church News

April/May 2022

Parish Register

Deaths

December 2021	Glen Edwards, Scone
9 February 2022	Alison Hunter, Scone
10 February 2022	Edith MacAskill, Scone
20 February 2022	William Piggot, Scone (formerly Balbeggie)
12 March 2022	Anne Buist, Scone
13 March 2022	Mary Falconer, Scone

Church News

Material for the next edition should be forwarded to the church office (tel 553900; email sconeandstmartinschurch@gmail.com) or to the editor Moira Daly (moiradalyscone54@gmail.com) by 26 May 2022. 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

Address: Balformo Road, Scone, PH2 6QX

**Contact: 01738 553900 or email
sconeandstmartinschurch@gmail.com**

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.

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you keeping well and enjoying the spring weather. It is a delight to see all things awakening anew. When we arrive for the early morning services at St Martins at 9.30 am on a Sunday morning, it is a joy to see the snowdrops and crocuses and daffodils, all cheering us, at the commencement of a new week. The wooded area by the Church is where the wild flowers thrive. We also delight in the signs, in the close proximity, calling us to respect the red squirrels.

Last Sunday, in St Martins and in Scone we held a service for spring time. St Martins had flowers and plants, tomato seeds, others of various kinds, a potato, and all that signalled our being out in the country among the fields and farms. As we do have the farming community represented there, we included in our earth blessing, a blessing on the farming community. Scone New looked well too. The candles with the Ukrainian flag gave reminder of how not all parts of our world are able to bask in the glory of springtime. The flowers were lovely as ever, and a pot plant and seeds were on the table too. The devastation of Ukraine is such a disgrace, whether we are looking at the actions of Russia or the seeming impotence of other nations to do anything about the situation. We are in some mess as regards nuclear weaponry! It is a tragic situation when the threat of pressing the nuclear button is used to promote the pursuit of evil in the world. And we are in yet another mess as regards all the pledges made and fine words spoken at COP 26. At a local level, I hope we have not forgotten the pleasure we received from cleaner air at the time of Lockdown, and the joy for many of coming off the treadmill of life to take in nature's beauty.

As I write we have a number of special weeks and Sundays before us. Mother's Day is coming up and there are some lovely little surprises prepared for everyone. Thank you to all responsible, leaders and children in Scone, and those in St Martins, who, also, never fail to make beautiful preparation for the services and seasons of the Christian Year, and to extend such a warm welcome.

On the first Sunday in April, there is no early service in St Martins as that it the Sunday we all gather together in Scone. This month our All-together Service is at 10.45 am in Scone Old Parish Church. The first Sunday in April is Passion Sunday. At the conclusion of the service we have the Stated Annual Meeting, followed by a meeting about St Martins which was due to close when the pandemic began but continues on the list of closures. There will be many closures throughout Scotland, and all who are able to attend but who do not attend or support their local church in any way, should consider themselves responsible. Many invitations are given, warm and inclusive, but by some, they are, sadly, ignored.

I am inclined to make a separation between Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday, as the children are with us on Palm Sunday. This year in Scone Old we are having the baptism of Elise, granddaughter of Iain and Peggy Lamond. Ellie, who was baptised on the Sunday before Christmas, will present Elise with a flower and posy. And, I am hoping that all our children in Sunday Club, Members of the Boys Brigade, Mothers and Toddlers who meet in our halls, Brownies, Guides, and parents will all feel welcome to join us, in addition to all our regular attenders. Will a donkey be with us? I am truly hoping so! We will have Palm leaves for you to carry, however big or small you are! (and that is not a swipe at those who are not giving chocolate up for Lent; after all these words still hold merit: "*A little of what you fancy does you good!*") In St Martins, we will have a Palm Sunday celebration with the hymns of this special day, and I am sure that in St Martins and Scone the sanctuaries will look lovely.

Now, having expanded on the happenings on Palm Sunday, what is Passion Sunday about? (You will recall that is the day of our All-together Service.) Well, it is not exactly about what the young couple, many years ago, who came to see me about their wedding, thought it was about. I had given them a hymn book, initially, for them to have a look at the Wedding Hymns in it, and thought they might have looked at the index and found the section marked "*Marriage*". However, it was another word that took their eye, viz., "*Passion*." A week or so later, they returned and asked for another book as they could find no hymns suitable under the section marked Passion! Well, we have record of Jesus attending a Marriage Feast but the Passion Narrative is different. Whether or not you have read your Bible recently, I recommend you read the Passion Narrative. You will find this in the New Testament, near the beginning of it, in the third Gospel called Luke at Chapter 23, verses 1 – 49. Why not read it through. These verses are about all that humanity did to put Jesus on the Cross. We see him hanging there, and hear his words, as humankind, watching on, reacts in different ways; some sobbed, others railed at him and spat on him, still others cast lots for his clothing.

Though Presbyterians hold that Jesus died once, and for all, we identify with the hymn that says, "In every insult, rift and war, where colour, scorn, or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more; and lives – though ever crucified." "Christ is alive, and comes to bring, good news to this and every age; 'til earth and all creation rings, with joy, with justice, love and praise." Passion Sunday is so relevant to the times we are living through. In the Ukraine, over 70% of the people are confessing Christians who firmly believe in the triumph of good over evil, and they are giving their lives in that fight. The West has grown comfy in its worship of materialism. It is comfy to sit in our armchairs and wallow in sentimentality. It is relatively comfy even to pack

boxes with goods for Ukraine and to send out money. But, is it comfy to take a strong stand for God, and for goodness triumphing over evil? Armchair sentimentality will not win the day!

Now to Easter: Our Easter Services are at 9.30 am in St Martins (with Easter Communion) and at 10.45 am, an Easter Service of Upbeat Praise and Thanksgiving is held in Scone Old Kirk. Come and sing your hearts out. Easter is the High Point of the Christian Year, the most important Christian Festival. However many barbecues you are holding, chocolate bunnies you are eating or dinners in your diary, if you are a confessing Christian, in these times, you will, I'm sure, wish to prioritise 30 minutes on Easter Day to celebrate New Life in Christ. Bring along your families as we'll have an Easter egg hunt in the garden for the children, and design your Easter bonnet as there will be prizes for these.

Please do not tell me if you opt to eat a barbecued whatever, rather than to prioritise coming to celebrate at a thirty minute Easter Service! I'd find it thrilling if your faith so excited you and motivated you that you brought your barbecues to the Church Yard and invited your friends and families. I doubt that those lying in the graves would object. Personally, it would thrill me to think of someone having a good Easter Celebration on top of my grave, when the time comes for me to be lying in it. Life over death is our motto! I'm sure your steak, burger, chicken or sausage, even marshmallows, will be truly blessed, and that you will be too, with 30 minutes of Easter Worship prior to your tuck-in. Witness on Easter Day! And, that goes for whether you are at home or away.

Now, never fail to realise how much I appreciate you. Indeed, many, members and elders I've ministered to over the years, are etched on my memory. There are so many whose witness has been and is special. We thrill and give thanks for the witness of George Stewart who aged 102 years attends every Sunday, and he most often walks to the Church and back home again. And, there are many more of our senior members whom I will not list for fear I miss anyone out. But let me not omit our younger members, children and babies, and our adherents who are regularly among us.

I recall too, many folk who have passed on, and won't name any in Scone and St Martins, though I could, but allow me to mention two of life's characters among the many I've known. The first was lying in a bed in a hospice. We'd always had a good bantering relationship and many laughs over the years, and he'd determined this would not totally dissipate as it came near his end. On my last visit to him, he pulled out some of his banter and displayed his strength of faith, as he squeezed my hand and said, "Ah! Maudeen, you continue to go to it! And then he beamed, "Fight the Good Fight with all thy might!" It is good advice for us all. The other was a

prominent businessman whose interests went far beyond the city in which he lived. He was an Elder, and President of the BB Battalion, and held other involvement too. Many a time, he held lunch parties on a Sunday but none of his friends would enjoy lunch before accompanying him to the Church. They filled up many pews. Then, having been at Church, they would have their sherry and all else, and a beautiful lunch laid on for them. I don't mind if it is sherry, or a G&T, a beer, shandy, wine or something stronger, bring your friends along.

On the Sunday following Easter we have our service of Holy Communion in Scone with the Praise of the Season. There will be no Sacrament that Sunday in St Martins.

The Bell rings forth, every Sunday, in St Martins, and, it is a great welcome. We require a bell ringer in the Old Kirk. Who will ring the bell?! Ron Cathro our much loved Beadle who recently retired not only rang the bell for worship but when he arrived early to check all was in order for worship, he rang the dressing bell, one hour before worship was due to begin. Wow! But that was one of his many talents appreciated by all his ministers. We require a beadle at the Old Kirk with the spunk to follow such example, and with Ron's devotion to keeping the grounds maintained and the flower beds looking lovely. If you cannot do it yourself, recruit a son who enjoys going the extra mile! I'd love a phone-call from them.

Well, this has not been my shortest letter on record but I hope you have found it newsy and stimulating.

Happy Easter and New Life be Yours,
Maudeen

The March for Peace Arranged by the Polish Church

I associated with the March through Perth on Saturday 19 March. You could not fail to be moved by it as our Ukrainian and Polish friends took their prayers to the streets of Perth. In Ukrainian, Polish, and English, prayers were offered, and the heartfelt prayer of all who participated was real. I was glad not to be the only person in Scone who participated. You do not need me to tell you that the Appeals continue for Ukraine and for other tragic places in the world. On Passion Sunday, 3 April, there will be opportunity again to give financially, at the close of Morning Worship.

Maudeen

HAPPENINGS at EASTER and on the WAY TO EASTER!

APRIL 10th: Palm Sunday: Come and help carry the Palms. We're having a donkey too! And . . . ! Come and share in a lovely Baptism. 10.45 am Scone Old Kirk.

APRIL 15th: Good Friday: The Doors of our Churches will be open between the hours of 12 noon and 3 pm. Come in and join us. Place a prayer request in the basket at the door. Pray forgiveness for so much that is dark in the world, and pray for the offer of New Light and Love in Easter Blessing be received by many.

APRIL 17th: Easter Day: Come and Sing all your favourite hymns! Celebrate Easter! New Life in Christ! Decorate and wear your Easter Bonnets! (Prizes to be won!). Children hunt around the Church for Eggs, lots of Easter Eggs! 9.30 am St Martins: 10.45 am Scone Old Kirk.

DO YOU WISH A CHURCH IN SCONE AND ST MARTINS? Then please show your support by attending now and do not leave it too late. There are proposed National changes everywhere. No stone is left untouched.

Can YOU DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THE ATTENDANCE LAST EASTER when during Covid we had over 100 attending?! In addition to Morning Worship, I am happy to host an EVENING CELEBRATION. Just signal and watch the web for detail.

Wishing you and yours blessing this Easter, Maudeen, Your Parish Minister



Ron and Janet Cathro

Ron and Janet, I would like to record my appreciation of you both in the Church Magazine and do so praying that neither of you will protest. How very much I have appreciated you both.

When able, Janet, you kept the place looking great and you had splendid control over all who used the kitchen, and often in church halls such control is invaluable. Your many accomplishments we all appreciated, and the treats you turned out to the delight of many a palate. Now heading my list of life's luxuries, in addition to having a bag professionally packed at a supermarket is having bins well ordered, and what an example you set us all, Janet, in putting things in the right place. Recycling and garden waste and general waste you taught us not to be thoughtless about as we disposed of it. I hope we can maintain your standard, as it was high! In addition you kindly kept the Communion Linen with the respect it is due, and you contributed so much when you had the energy to do it. Our sincere thanks, to you, Janet. We wish you better health in the times ahead.

Now Ron, what can I say to you but a very big thank you! You have been an excellent beadle and I am sure every minister who has known you has given thanks for you. I still do! You were up tops, in the fine style of a minister's beadle. To hear you ringing the bell and the dressing bell every Sunday was a joy! And, to find you early about the Kirk on a Sunday morning with the gas fire on in the vestry and my gown out, and the Kirk Door opened early, was great! You were out too in all weathers clearing the paths of frost and snow. You had us spoilt. What's more, you had a great wisdom, and an understanding of the congregation, not to mention a sense of humour, in addition to your sense of responsibility. The ability to have a wise or humorous or an encouraging crack is a special essence in itself, in any Kirk. You had a good understanding of our parishioners, and appreciative stories to tell, and an interesting and happy perspective on Scone in the present and Scone in the past, which included that knack of leading in appreciation from the unreal to the real. How you looked after the Church Grounds. Ah, the weeding that you carried out quietly, day by day, and your tending of the Church Garden. And, not only that, you'd pop in and give me a hand when you felt able in the Manse Garden. You were one of the folk who when I came to Scone really helped me settle in. Thank you, Ron. In the Kirk, you were up for any occasion. We'll all miss your beadling but we are so pleased that you are still one of our elders and hold your Faith and your Kirk at heart. Though no longer the beadle, we hope that with that weight now cast off, you will continue to join us at the Kirk on a Sunday morning. You and Janet are both very much part of our fellowship and loved and respected by all. While wishing you a happy retirement and better health, Ron and Janet, we pray your company among us will not cease. God bless you both, Maudeen.

Acting Session Clerk's Report

There will be considerable change happening within the Church of Scotland within the next twelve months.

Firstly, the Presbytery of Perth has agreed to join with four other Presbyteries, namely, Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld and Meigle and Stirling to make a new "super" Presbytery. This will go to the General Assembly in May to be approved and will come into effect in January 2023. No one can be quite sure how the new system will work out but if more power is delegated from the centre to the new Presbyteries and then to local congregations, it could make a significant advance in how all things relevant to the church are done.

Secondly, within the existing Presbytery of Perth, a report was submitted by the Planning and Development Committee, suggesting ways and means of reducing the number of ministers from 26 to 16.5. As you may imagine, some of these proposals are controversial, and as far as we are concerned, the undernoted is the proposal for Scone and St Martins.

NETWORK 6:

- Scone and St Martins, Cargill Burrelton & Collace
- Allocation: 1.0 FTE (reduced from 1.7 FTE) Full Time Equivalent
- Population: 8,200 [8200/FTE]
- Proposal: To allocate 1 FTE ministry (Parish Minister) to this network.
- Collace to be united with Cargill Burrelton (and it's building subsequently closed)
- Cargill Burrelton (& Collace) to become a Presbytery Mission Church
- Scone to become the supervising church of Cargill Burrelton & Collace Mission Church and support ongoing work there.

This proposal will be discussed with the Planning and Development Committee by the Kirk Session within the next few weeks.

If you wish to make any comments on this matter, please let me know as soon as possible.

If anyone wishes to see the full report, just let me know.

Mike Moir, Acting Session Clerk

Thanksgiving Service for the late Ina McGregor

Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Ina McGregor will be held in Scone and St Martins Church (Balformo Road) on Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 11 am. The family warmly welcomes all who wish to attend.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

15TH MAY – 21ST MAY

This year we are again doing a delivery only collection for Christian Aid week, with drop off points at all churches and local shops. If you feel that you can help with this please contact Peggy Lamond (01738 553582) as soon as possible.

Please give generously to help the poorest of the poor in our world. People like Jessica, whose story is below.

Feeling active?? Why not take the 300,000 steps challenge in May - details can be found at 'christianaid.org.uk'.

JESSICA'S STORY - Jessica Mwedzi smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them but she knows that they are hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry'.

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival. Like many women in rural Zimbabwe, 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food. She toils on her farm but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land. Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger.

Jessica recalls that 'One year we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.' Her husband is unwell so she is the only breadwinner.

YOU CAN HELP THIS LOVING MUM TURN HUNGER INTO HOPE

'My children give me the power to go ahead ... I pray they have a better future'.

HOW YOUR GIFT COULD HELP - Jessica could grow drought resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. Her dusty dry land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, cucumbers and beans. She'll be proud of the fruits of her work and she'll see her children enjoy their first full meal in months.

With your gift this Christian Aid week, families like Jessica's won't go to bed hungry tonight. Hope does not disappoint, hope lives in you.

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

Pastoral Notes

The Coronavirus is still around, visiting many homes and restricting behaviour but at least seems to be much milder in its effects so we can begin to awake with the turn of the season and welcome the spring – and journey through Lent to the promise and joy of Easter Day. Today, I walked up towards the Pinnacle (but not to the top!) and Star and I had a picnic lunch in the sun. The wee burn beside us was gurgling and the birds singing away – again the woodpecker was drilling for grubs. I saw the first of the early celandines, turning their shiny yellow petal faces to the sun – a real delight. I think I am easy pleased but also very grateful for good health and legs that carry well. Home again and time to top off the chocolate traybake for the Guild Quiz. It is good to have such social events again and know they are all being run with care, mindful of Covid's spreading ways.

It would be good to have a few more folk back to Fellowship Lunch. The next lunch is Thursday, 7 April 2022 at 12.30 pm in Burnside Hall as usual. We are back to homemade soup and fresh sandwiches, which is grand and has been much appreciated by those gathering round the tables in February and March.

I think we all feel that the old 'normal' of events and meeting arrangements, with the bother of getting a bit dressed up when slippers and the old jumper has been the norm, is a bit of an effort. BUT – life is for living and sharing and if we are able, it is good to get out into the weather and meet up with folk.

For all who aren't able to 'get up and go' we send love and good wishes and hope you are able to enjoy the spring from your windows or doorstep. Please get in touch if the team can help in anyway, even if just for a wee blether.

With Easter Blessings, Margaret McMillan (Pastoral Team), 551560



Beadle Duties Scone Old

I am looking for assistance at Scone Old with beadle duties; not difficult or onerous and probably 3 times per year. Full training will be given before you are let loose!!
Mike Moir

Sunday Club



We have had a bit of a hiccup but would like to thank in the main Margaret McMillan and others for holding the fort at the Sunday Club during my illness.

The girls will be handing out Mothering day gifts on Mothering Sunday and then there will be no Sunday Club on 3, 10 or 17 April. Rev McDougall would like the children to attend church on any of these dates over Easter.

We would start Sunday Club on 24 April and would look forward to anyone who would like to join us.

Please contact Helen Moir for any information (01738 551549)



El Salvador

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” ISAIAH 61:1 NIVUK

Gangs terrorise El Salvador, making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world. Once someone is involved in a gang, leaving is not easy and former members are often threatened with violence and even death.

The Bible Society of El Salvador reaches out to gang members who find themselves serving time in prison, supporting them and helping them to discover the God of the Bible. There is an opportunity for any prisoner expressing interest to attend Bible School. During their studies, prisoners are often changed as they encounter Jesus and hear about the forgiveness and the new life he offers.

Please pray: that through the Bible many prisoners will encounter Jesus and turn away from gang culture. Pray that they would be able to reintegrate into society.

Jim Currie



Easter Cross

At St Martins Church on Easter Sunday, 17 April the Easter Cross will be situated at the gate to the church. We invite members to bring a flower/s of their choice to place on the cross. Please see elsewhere in the magazine for details of other services being held at this special time of year.

Ellen Simpson



Guildtown Community Association

Picnic in the Park at Guildtown

Sunday 5 June 2022

1.00pm – 4.00pm

You are invited to come along with your family and your picnic and have a great afternoon.

There will be a variety of stalls and activities for all members of the family.

More details will be issued once all contributors have been confirmed.



Hoping for good weather and a fun filled afternoon!



Sheelagh Candy
Guildtown Community Association



Knit and Chat

Welcome back to Knit and Chat – first meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 10.30 am at Balforno Road Church Hall.

Further meetings will be held on the first Wednesdays of the month.

Tea and coffee – all welcome. For further enquiries please contact Sheila Simpson on 01738 551773 or Ann Gellatly on 01738 552370.

Social and Fund Raising

To date we have raised the sum of £1350.03, made up of Jam Jars £657, Quiz £422 and Scottish Country Dance £271.03 which we feel is a good result considering the previous Covid-19 restrictions.

Well done to Edna Donaldson from Scone who won the Scottish Songs Quiz. Look out for another quiz coming out later in the year.

Church Coffee Morning



**Saturday
21 May 2022**

Burnside Hall

10.00 am – 12 noon

**Coffee/Home Baking
Cake & Candy Stall
Book Stall
Prize Draw**

£3.00 adult/£1.00 child



Our next event is a Coffee Morning as above. Any donations of baking, books or prizes for the prize draw will be gratefully received. If you would like to help in any way on the day, please contact Anne Lamond, 552262.

We are trying as a committee to arrange a programme of events for the coming months and this is what has been suggested:

- Saturday 13 August - Fun Day in Car Park and areas around Burnside Halls, Scone Old, which could be like a Mini Fete, with small stalls of ice cream, lemonade, burgers, Duck Race in the Burn and a possibility of teas in the large hall. **THERE WILL BE NO STALLS IN THE HALLS ON THAT DAY.**
- Friday 16 September - Bingo Tea in Burnside Halls, Scone Old

There may be other events ie an afternoon Scottish Country Dance, and a Coffee Morning later in the year.

Please put these dates in your diary and support us at these events as the Committee are trying very hard to bring the Community of Scone & St Martins together again after two very difficult years. Please check future editions of Church News for further details.

Thank you for your continued support.

Anne Lamond, Convenor, 01738 552262



GUILD

After the disappointment of cancelling meetings in January, the Guild had its first meeting of 2022 on the afternoon of 8 February when we welcomed Val Wares and Jorja. As well as updating us on what was happening at Guide Dogs for the Blind in general, Val led us through her personal journey to acquiring Jorja and what a valuable companion she'd become.

A goodly number of members turned out to welcome Brian Cunningham, the head gardener at Scone Palace and well-known presenter on Beechgrove Garden, on 25 February. Brian showed a very interesting slide show of some of the many plants, flowers and trees in the grounds of the palace. Also he told us about some of the damage done by Storm Arwen.

Our meeting on 8 March was 'Blether with Beat'. Beat is charity which is involved in eating disorders. Those present were shocked to be told by the speaker, Moira Hookham, that while eating disorders according to popular belief are a female problem, approx 25 percent of those suffering from eating disorders are male.

A sense of relief pervaded the evening of 22 March when, at last, we were able to hold our only fundraising event of the session, the Quiz. Thanks to everyone who donated and served refreshments, donated prizes for the prize draw, participated in the quiz and to Mike Moir for being the question master, the sum of approx £350 was raised.

March 11 saw our branch of the Guild hosting the Perth and Kinross Guilds Together Annual Business Meeting at Burnside. This was arranged at relatively short notice and thanks are due to a very dedicated team of our members for undertaking the necessary tasks.

A final note of thanks go to Paul for helping set up the halls for our meetings throughout the session.

The AGM of the Guild is being held on 29 March after which meetings will cease until September when YOU will be very welcome to join in with whatever the Committee arranges.

Christine Munro

We continue with our varied programme as mentioned in the last edition. It seems to work as our average attendance is near 100%. Just the occasional covid afflicted miss. We are missing Kenny at the moment whilst he recuperates from his heart surgery. We wish him well. Unfortunately he is unlikely to make it back before the end of the session and he is missed. Obviously he is also missing from the Junior Section but Jacqui Christie has come out of retirement to hold the reins.

At the end of the month we are taking part in the National Top Team competition. This is done in our own hall with independent adjudicators. The boys work in teams of 4. Last year one of our teams came 5th overall. Hopefully we can at least emulate that performance this year. Our domestic chess tournament is progressing nicely. By the time this newsletter is published we will have completed the round robin stage. The finals will be played at the beginning of May after our Easter break. The Battalion has shown itself to be one up on its neighbours. It has run three intercompany competitions this session, other Battalions have not managed any! We had two teams in for the dodge ball which we won. All of the boys entered for the evening hike which saw teams of 3 or 4 finding their way round a course in Kinross in the late evening with a series of challenges to do en route. One team (our oldest) kept up the company tradition and managed to get lost - not just once but twice. This was compensated by the fact that our C Team won overall. The final event was the Battalion Chess tournament which was won by our Harris O'Loughlin.

We turned out for the special service in the church in February at which the colours were piped down the aisle by Alasdair Duthie. It was great and being piped in and out is something that has not happened for many years.

We are now looking forward to our camp up Glen Lyon at the end of April, having missed the last two thanks to covid. All of the boys bar one are going along with six boys from the Junior Section. Hoping for good weather!

Three of the boys have now passed their driving tests at the first time of asking. Not sure if we can claim any credits.....but then again!!

Always save the best to the last. Lennon, Marcus and Matthew travelled to Dunblane on the 20th. to take part in a skills course. They all passed and accordingly they have enough credits to qualify for their President's badge. This is the second highest award in the Brigade and all being well they will go on to work towards the top award - the Queen's Badge.

Iain Lamond

Queens Platinum Jubilee Latest

The plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations are progressing and coming together. The celebrations will take the form of a Family Funday and Picnic in the Park, it will be a free event and it will take place on Saturday 4 June, 12 - 4pm. The Robert Douglas Institute, the Scone Village Association and the Scone and District Community Council, and others, are working closely together to ensure the day is a success.

Many clubs organisations have agreed to take part such as:-

RDM School	Scone Thistle	Boys Brigade
Scouts/Guides/Brownies		Others are still to confirm

They will have their own stall and/or games to play with refreshments all at a minimal cost.

Entertainment will include:

Pipe band	Brass band	SWAY	Country Dancing
Classic/ vintage cars		SVA Bouncy Castle	
Football, Top Bins, Foot Golf		Sponge throw	
Various competitions			
RDMI Tombola, Crafting table, teas and coffees			

A wee gentle reminder that we are still looking for stories from the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and any photographs or memorabilia you may like to share with us. Please do contact us anytime for assistance if you need help in getting your story written up.

If you are a business in Scone and wish to donate to us then please do get in contact. All contributions will be greatly received. We continue to look for volunteers and this has gone out on Facebook and posters around the village. Contact Suzanne on 07748772148 if you can help. We are still open to offers and suggestions for the day. Just let us know and we'll see what we can do. The committee is now meeting fortnightly and we look forward to hearing from you. Let's make it a day to remember.

Remember you can contact us by:

- putting a written note in the RDMI letter box
- send us an email to contact@rdminstitute.co.uk
- contact one of the team - Vanessa Shand, Karen Donaldson, Gaynor Hood, Julie Livingston, Suzanne Westwood, Jim Arthurs, Ian MacKinnon
- send a message via Facebook pages for the Robert Douglas Memorial Institute, Scone Village Association or Scone Community Council

Vanessa Shand

Chair Scone and District Community Council and lead organiser

Children's Story - Log Island

Norway is a beautiful country. The long sea coast on the west side has been cut into by the sea lochs called Ffords. There are forests, farms, country roads, isolated houses and towns and cities. About the year 1900, some Norwegian families moved to British Columbia in Canada. The landscape there is much the same as Norway, especially the forests. The men were loggers. They cut trees in virgin forest and prepared them for transport to logging camps, for use in building houses, making furniture, tools and wagons. When the men finished work in one part of British Columbia, they moved to another, often quite a distance away. This meant they left their families behind.

One day one of the men, or was it a woman, had a brilliant idea. "Why not take our families with us?" So they built a very large raft, constructed from huge logs from the tallest trees, lashed together and made secure. It covered quite an area of water. On this platform they built little houses, a tiny church, a store which sold food and clothes and things needed for living. When they moved to a new place of work, the log village was towed with them and anchored by the shore. Life went on as usual. The men went to work in their small boats; the children went to school on the log raft; the mothers did what mothers do. It made such a difference to them all, when they moved their village to accompany their work, they were all together.

Why did they go to such trouble? The reason is this - family life is very precious. Parents had their children with them; children had their parents always there for them. They lived together, ate meals together, played together, had fun together. They marked special occasions like Christmas and Easter, birthdays and holidays, special occasions in summer and winter, with activities on the raft. Ah yes! Families are good! Happy families are the richness of life!

Thank God for Families!



Children's Prayer – Our Home

Mum says our home is more than a house because it is furnished with Love.

Thank you God, for my family and your love.

Anne Lamond

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.



Prayer Notes

Our world is broken. We only have to turn on the TV or our phones to see news alerts on the latest tragedy and there have been many more stories that don't get media attention but God is at work in the midst of the chaos and through prayer we can join him in bringing healing to our broken world. But how do we do this? The term used is intercessional prayer which just means praying to God for many people. The Bible is full of examples of people – Moses, Elijah and Paul to name but a few. When we pray to God on behalf of those people may we be encouraged because many of these stories were answers to prayers.

Jesus wants all people everywhere to experience the love of God. He wants us to live life to the full. This includes every aspect of our being – spiritual, emotional, mental and physical. But in this broken world not everyone is able to live life to the full. Poverty, conflict and the pandemic have robbed people of hope, health and opportunities. We know God's plan is to restore the world and so, let us pray for people who are struggling that they may have life in abundance. It is difficult to know where to begin, so here is a list to help you:

1. Ask God to place in your heart a country to pray for.
2. Begin by acknowledging God's power. Pray for initiatives and communities. Pray for those in power.
3. Pray for the local church to continue to bring hope.
4. Find out more information about what is going on in the country. The more you know, the more specific your prayers will become.
5. Keep a notebook and write down your questions and answered prayers.
6. Make time each week to pray about your country. Put a sticky note in your diary/calendar to remind you.

And remember – sometimes prayers can take the form of silent prayers – God listens, God understands, God cares.

Jim Currie

Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 December 2021
Extracts from Examined Financial Statements (approved by Kirk Session 17th March, 2022)

	2021	2020
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Offerings	76,293	69,969
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	14,906	14,649
Donations	3,473	3,148
Hall Lets	4,883	7,746
Contributions from congregational organisations	600	1,650
Fundraising activities (gross receipts)	2,259	3,991
Grants received	5,141	8,552
Release of revenue from consolidated fabric fund	4,073	4,414
Other income (net)	<u>2,955</u>	<u>4,036</u>
Total receipts	<u>114,583</u>	<u>118,155</u>
PAYMENTS		
Ministries and Mission allocation	59,052	68,600
Staffing costs	21,005 1	9,647
Heating and lighting	7,934	9,701
Water services	2,155	0
Insurance	6,662	6,495
Fabric and equipment repairs and replacements	3,896	4,603
Printing & Stationery	2,804	4,494
Guild and Clubs	1,474	3,045
Other	<u>8,145</u>	<u>9,516</u>
Total payments	<u>113,127</u>	<u>126,101</u>
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>1456</u>	<u>(7,946)</u>

Notes:

- Offerings were up by 9% on last year, thanks to well supported Giving Day and Christmas Appeals, which raised over £7,000. The congregation were again very generous with their regular giving.
- Hall Lets recovered strongly in the last quarter, with many users returning after Covid restrictions were reduced.
- Fundraising came mainly from a sponsored walk, the jam jars initiative and quiz sheets.
- Grants received included £4,891 from the government's Job Retention Scheme.
- Other income included the receipts of the Guild and Clubs, investment dividends and interest on deposits.
- 2021 was a very low-spending year on buildings, but we were hit by very large charges for water, for the first time. Hopefully these charges will cease from April 2022, with the restoration of full charity relief. We benefitted from a one-off reduction in our Ministry and Mission allocation.
- It was very pleasing that we managed to show a small net surplus for the year.
- The bank and deposit balances carried forward at 31st December, 2021, totalled £164,215.
- 2022 will be another difficult year, with a budgeted deficit of £7000. We will need the continued strong support of the congregation, and full resumption of fund-raising.

Robin Walker, Treasurer.

Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts and Payments for 2 months ending 28 February 2022
(excluding Guild and Clubs)

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2022	2021
RECEIPTS	£	£
Offerings	10,511	8,652
Appeals	530	0
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	4,403	4,638
Donations	577	0
Weddings and funerals	720	0
Contributions from congregational organisations	200	0
Hall Lets	2,263	0
Fundraising events	269	99
Other income	<u>68</u>	<u>250</u>
 Total receipts	 <u>19,541</u>	 <u>13,639</u>

Notes:

- Regular Offerings are up by over 21% on last year, largely because of the absence of church services in the comparative period last year. The Appeal is the continuation of donations to the Christmas appeal.
- The contribution from congregational organisations was £200 from the Badminton Club.
- Fundraising is from further Jam jars (£184), (more still to come) and the Quiz (£85).
- Hall lets are contributing strongly, continuing the recovery in the previous quarter.

Robin Walker, Treasurer

Val Grossart

As many of you will know by now, Val Grossart has retired as Flower Convener for Scone after some thirty five years. She will be sadly missed by all in the congregation who have received flowers over that very long service. If you would wish to make a contribution to mark the church's appreciation of all the work Val has done, please contact Robin Walker (551936) or hand in at morning service.

Scone Rotas

	Welcoming Party	Reader	Beadle
April 3	Marian Forgan, Anne Lamond, Peggy Lamond,	Marian Forgan	Mike Moir
10	Clare Little, Ian MacKinnon, Val Mathieson	Ian MacKinnon	Hamish Breckenridge
17	Margaret McMillan, Ross Merson, Mike Moir,	Ross Merson	Ross Merson
24	Christine Munro, Margaret Nicol, Sheila Simpson	Margaret Nicol	Bob Murray
May 1	Hamish & Margaret Breckenridge, Robin Walker	Margaret Breckenridge	Ian Baillie
8	Ian Baillie, Marian Forgan, Sheila Simpson	Linda Beedie	Douglas Calderwood
15	Kate Carswell, Moira Daly, Marian Forgan	Marian Forgan	Ian MacKinnon
22	Ann Gellatly, Anne Lamond, Peggy Lamond	Anne Lamond	Ross Merson
29	Service at St Martins		
June 5	Margaret McMillan, Ross Merson, Mike Moir	Margaret McMillan	



Tea Rota

	Tea Duty	Milk and Money
April 3	No teas due to Annual Business Meeting	
10	Joan Gilchrist, Margaret & Hamish Breckenridge	Joan Gilchrist
17	Moira Daly, Marian Forgan, Ann Gellatly	Moira Daly
24	Marian Forgan, Peggy Lamond, Moira Daly	Marian Forgan
May 1	Val Grossart, Sheila Simpson, Susan Kean	Val Grossart
8	Christine Townend, Doreen MacKay, Margaret Ewen	Christine Townend
15	Margaret McLean, Marion Dallas, Margaret Lobban	Margaret McLean
22	Margaret & Hamish Breckenridge, Madge Merson	Margaret Breckenridge
29	All Parish Worship at St Martins	
June 5	Peggy Lamond, Moira Daly, Marian Forgan	Peggy Lamond



Flowers

	Donating	Delivering
April 3	Margaret Breckenridge	Alice Collie
10	Margaret Christie	Dorothy Traynor
17	Margaret Buchan	Helen Lowe
24	Lorna Moss and Linda Bonar	Carolyn Haddow
May 1	Isabel McCallum	Margaret Lobban
8	Margaret Petrie	Margaret McMillan
15	Margaret & Robert Wallace	Val Mathieson
22	Vacant	Susan Kean
29	All Parish Service at St Martins	
June 5	Moira Daly	Moira Daly

There are gaps in the diary for flower donations towards Sunday flower displays – and ongoing pastoral distribution for all of May month and dates through the year. Please consider making a donation towards this, flower make such a difference, in the sanctuary and are much appreciated when gifted afterwards for times of joy, illness and bereavement. You can choose a particular date if available.

We are also urgently needing someone to keep the administration of this flower service going in respect of the Balforno Road New Church (one month in two). Please consider this yourself or can you think of a person who might enjoy this role.

Please contact Margaret McMillan on 551560 mgt.mcmillan@gmail.com or for flowers in Scone Old - Margaret Buchan on 621814

Margaret McMillan

Change of Email

We have changed our Internet provider, and this has resulted in a change of email address to: sconeandstmartinschurch@gmail.com.

Please update your address book.

Marian Forgan

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	01738 621814
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