

### PROPERTY GROUP

I mentioned in my last article that we had applied for grant funding to assist with an upgrade of the toilet facilities at Lochgelly and I'm pleased to report that we received an excellent payment of £3500 from the Four Winds Trust towards this project. More funding is required, however, and I will keep looking. One of the windows at Benarty needs to be replaced and I have now received estimates for this. It is necessary for Church Art and Architecture to approve this work and I have informed them about this. We previously received a generous legacy from a former member and part of this was set aside to provide an AV system for Benarty. In April we met with a Minister who provides this service primarily for churches and we received a satisfactory estimate for this work which hopefully will get underway shortly. I was a victim of the 'beast from the east' when I fell on the ice in the church grounds on 8th March and broke my wrist. It was a bit inconvenient as I wasn't able to drive for six weeks. I'm pleased to say I'm now fully recovered and back to normal. Let's hope we get a long, hot summer to make up for all that snow!

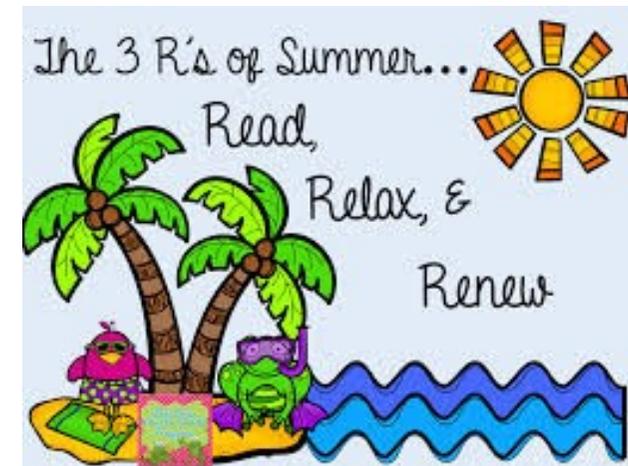
Laura Pepperday  
Property Convener

### PASTORAL CARE GROUP

During the preparation of this newsletter, St Serf's Pastoral Care Group were out visiting. Their quarterly meeting will take place on Tuesday, 5th June. The group, along with our Locum Minister Rev Geoff Probert and Deacon Pamela Scott, continue to visit those members of our congregation who are housebound, ill or bereaved. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from a pastoral visit, please submit their name to any of the above. If anyone would like to join the group in this rewarding work please contact myself John Blamey tel 01592 781861. Our next visits will take place between June and August.

# NEWS FROM ST. SERF'S

*June 2018*



Your Elder is \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

(Scottish Charity Reference: SC032353)

From the Locum.....

I have been reminded so much recently of a passage of Scripture that was given to me about twenty years ago when I entered into Ministry. At the time, I was hesitant about making a big decision to go and study on a full-time basis. An elderly gentleman, who had been praying for me gave me the passage that he had typed out and put into a photo frame. It was from Jeremiah 29: 11.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Looking back over the past two years (and a few months) that I have been here, I have found much comfort in these words. When I first came here, I must admit that I felt that I did feel unsure of the future. Many things have happened since then. I have had ups and downs and it has not always been easy spending long periods of time away from one’s family. Nevertheless, I have found Benarty and Lochgelly to be a place of healing for me and I have enjoyed being a part of the community and a caring, supportive Congregation. I have enjoyed my visits, I love preaching on Sunday’s and being part of the several activities that I have taken part in during the course of the week, such as the Thursday morning “Drop-In’s” and coffee mornings. I have been inspired by the commitment of people, who week after week are involved in various activities such as helping at the foodbank and running the Messy Church. In spite of the fact that there has not been a permanent Minister here for four years, St Serfs has certainly continued to keep things going. I am certain that it does not go unrecognised.

On a personal level, I have continued to pop in and visit people, officiate at funeral services and attend various committees and Presbytery. Christmas Services were a blessing as were the Palm Sunday and Easter Services. By the time this is read, we would have looked towards the Ascension and Pentecost Services as the Church year moves forward. Pamela and Aileen have added a new dimension to the work of the Church, bringing with them their own talents and ideas. I am always amazed at some of the ideas that they come up with and they have made inroads into the local schools. Their input at B.L.C.T (Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together) has helped the group find a new focus, that I hope will be built upon in the future. St Serfs has seen a change of Interim Moderators recently and Morag Crawford has been working steadily with us.

One of the highlights this year has been speaking to the Tuesday Afternoon Group in April. I was asked to speak on my 20 years of experience in Ministry, in South Africa and Scotland. There was much I could have spoken about and I made copious notes, and ended up not using most of them, but instead I ended up simply sharing my experiences, both good and not so good. I was amazed how well it went down. I was supposed to talk for 45 minutes, but ended up going over an hour

## ***CHURCH NEWSLETTER***

*I hope you are enjoying reading this summer issue of the magazine. Sadly some of the groups don't have any news they want to, or can't, share but we have to thank those who have taken the time to contribute. Thanks to all the group organisers for their co-operation in getting their articles to me with time to spare.*

*Thanks as always to Bob and the ladies who come in to help sort out the newsletters ready for pick up. Hope to see you all at church, or if you are unable, maybe I'll see some of you when the organisations resume.*

*Have a peaceful summer.*

*Anne Scott.*

*Editor.*



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY 10TH JUNE  
AT A JOINT SERVICE  
IN ST. SERF'S, LOCHGELLY AT 10.30am**



**There will be a retiring offering for the church Samaritan Fund**  
Anyone requiring home communion should contact their Elder or any of the below.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

<b>Morag Crawford DCS</b>	<b>Interim Moderator</b>	<b>mob. 07970982563</b>
<b>Rev. Geoff Probert</b>	<b>Locum Minister</b>	<b>mob. 07491 139129</b>
<b>Pamela Scott BD DCS</b>	<b>Parish Assistant</b>	<b>mob. 07548 819334</b>
<b>Aileen Christie</b>	<b>Outreach Worker</b>	<b>mob 07966660258</b>
<b>Betty Martin</b>	<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>Tel. 01592 781715</b>
<b>Ian Brown</b>	<b>Web Page/ Facebook</b>	<b>Tel. 01592 782515</b>

### CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY AND WORSHIP GROUP

We are currently planning the Congregational Outing to Craigtoun Park, St. Andrews on Saturday 2nd June. This is always an enjoyable day out. We are also planning the Pentecost Service at Benarty on 20th May which will include the Sunday Club gift giving. It's hard to believe the Sunday Club is almost over for the summer. Hopefully we will have lots of long summer days before we start back. We would really love to have a few more members on the Worship Group. This would be very helpful with the preparation for special services. If anyone is interested please speak to me at Church or come along to one of our meetings.

Laura Pepperday - Group Member



### WAYS & MEANS GROUP

We held a very successful Burns Supper in February with almost 80 people attending. Our thanks must go to all who contributed towards the success of the evening with various recitations and songs. On 12th May we had a Brunch for Christian Aid and everyone enjoyed rolls on bacon, egg, sausages and black pudding. The Summer Fayre is on Saturday 30th June at Lochgelly and we are hoping for a good day. We have already had enquiries from people wishing to hire tables to sell their own goods and there will be various stalls and activities as well as cream teas. There will be an opportunity to attend something different this summer in the form of a musical afternoon tea. More details will be available shortly. There are only a few people on the Ways & Means Group and we are always looking for new members. If you have some great ideas for fundraising and would like to join the group please speak to me at church or come along to the next meeting.

Laura Pepperday  
Ways & Means Group

Looking back, there certainly has been some amusing moments! I guess, we should not take everything too seriously!

I have also come to realise that I cannot stay here indefinitely. I do have to think about future plans. I have attended a few interviews, but so far nothing definite has come up. Although, I have a contract until March next year, should the Church find another Minister, then this will take priority. Like anyone, it sometimes makes me feel a little shaky as I will have to take risks and move forward to the unknown. This brings me back to the Scripture from Jeremiah again. I have to trust in God's good judgement and timing. In the meantime, I continue to serve St Serfs the best I can. I have much to be grateful for.

God's richest blessings!

Geoff

## FUNERALS

Maggie Potter Lochore

James Allan Lochgelly

Robert Bell Ballingry

Anna McGregor Lochgelly

Tom Anderson Kirkcaldy

Catherine Harrower Lochgelly

Isabella Kinnell Lochgelly

Tom McLean Lochgelly

James Wallace Lochore

Gwyneth Manley Lochgelly

John Allan Cardenden

Eleanor McCurley Lochgelly

Adam Hynd Lochgelly

Ruby Hunter Lochgelly

Margaret Stanton Lochgelly

James Gallacher Lochore

Isabel Munro Lochore

Helen Hutton Lochgelly



## GREETINGS FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear all,

*I am writing to introduce myself to you. I am Deacon at Rosyth where I have served for twenty years and recently was appointed as your Interim Moderator from the beginning of April. To date I have met with members of the Session at their Conference Day and Kirk Session meeting also the Nomination Committee as well as the staff members. I hope at some stage to be able to get to know some of you as well when I manage to get along to conduct a service.*

*Probably by the time you are receiving this letter I will be at the General Assembly when there will be much debate on the shortage of ministers and the number of vacancies. Many are in similar positions to you and have not had a minister for some time. You are in a fortunate position that you have a Deacon, project worker and locum and you have all worked very hard to keep things going. The congregational review took place by Presbytery and although the report has not yet gone to Presbytery it is very favourable of all that is happening in St. Serf's. There are a number of things such as the manse and others which will be looked at in the coming months.*

*Paul in his letters to the early Churches would encourage the congregations in the work they were doing, in writing to you I would say how encouraged I have been to learn of all that you have been doing and to encourage you in that work and look forward to getting to know you better. In the meantime I hope you have a good summer and do manage to get time for some relaxation and recharging of batteries.*

*With best wishes and blessings to all*

*Morag Crawford*

## THE MAGAZINE ON CD'S

Just a wee reminder that recorded CD's are made each time the newsletter is printed. This is a free service to anyone who has difficulty reading news print. Please give me a call on 01592 780077 and I can arrange for you to have one.

**Margaret Morgan.**



Messy Church is a close family group which meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6pm in St. Serf's Benarty and we enjoy spending this time together.

We have lots of fun. We planted seeds to take home, as well as scattering seeds in the church garden.

We also do crafts and have snacks to tie in with each story. This year we have talked about Jesus being our light and we thanked God for all the people who love and care for us. We also thanked God for being our friend. We spoke about being fishers of men, and telling people about Jesus.

## ST. SERF'S LADIES BOWLING GROUP

*We have now closed the Winter/Spring session on Thursday 12th April. Our Autumn/ Winter session begins on Thursday 20th September.*

*Although our numbers have dropped slightly, those who do attend on a regular basis enjoy their game of bowls, a cuppa and a chat. On our final day we had a special tea with lovely goodies, and truffles made by one of our members.*

*I wish all our members a happy and healthy summer break, with hopefully some sunshine.*

*Yours in sport,*

*May Lees. Secy.*

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH ADMIN. OFFICE

Things are going smoothly in the office just now. My thanks goes to the ministry team, the Drop In ladies and to the casual visitors who pop in every Thursday. Your co-operation and friendship is much appreciated. Thanks as always to Bob for his help every week. Hope you and your family are well. Have a lovely summer.

*Anne Scott*

*Administrator*



## TUESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

We have come to the end of another successful and well attended session, and are looking forward to our summer break. Hopefully the weather will improve and perhaps the sun will even shine for us.

We have had a wide variety of interesting topics, such as podiatry, working in the community, the Salvation Army, the work of the street pastors, the Reverend Geoff Probert gave us a fascinating, informative, and at times humorous talk on his life in South Africa. Moira Neilson had a fun afternoon which is always popular. For our last meeting we welcomed the ever popular pianist David Graham who also organised a very successful musical quiz. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

We finish as usual with our lunch on 22nd May, and we hope to see everyone when we resume in September. Anyone wishing to come along will be made very welcome. Best wishes to all and we hope it will be a warm sunny summer.



Marion Lumsden - group member.

May God Smile  
On You Today

## ST. SERF'S CRAFT GROUP



The group meet in St. Serf's Benarty every Thursday from 2pm till 4pm. As well as our craft work we enjoy this time together having a cuppa and a blether. As part of our fund raising to help with church funds we have a coffee morning on the last Friday of each month where we have a craft stall, tombola and bric-a-brac. We continue to help with the Shoe Box Appeal.

May Binnie - group member.

## NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH WORKER

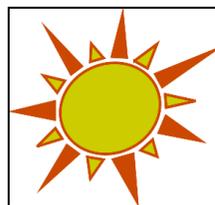
I was delighted to join St Serf's as an Outreach Worker in February and since then have been getting to know the Church and the people and laying foundations for us to reach out into the community. It was fantastic to welcome Lochgelly South Primary to the Church for the Easter Code and this has led to another interactive session with the Primary 7s and an invitation to help with a lunchtime group at the school on a regular basis. We are pursuing similar links with Lochgelly West and Benarty and I am meeting with other Churches to make a joint approach to the High School. We are looking forward to 'Summer Tuesdays' at Benarty and I have been really encouraged by the enthusiasm of the parents and carers at Messy Church for this event. Please encourage any children you know to come along (details below).

I am currently undertaking an SQA Qualification in Community Involvement which has been funded by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. This involves both written and practical assignments as well as attending six teaching days, but I believe the time and effort will be worthwhile as the course is very practical and completely relevant to what I am hoping to do.

This is a challenging time for the Church at local and national level with dwindling congregations and a lack of ministers. However, I firmly believe that God will never abandon His people and will build His Church again. Perhaps we need to be open to the idea that the Church of the future could look very different from what we have known in the past and be prepared to set out on an exciting adventure together.

I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to the year ahead.

Aileen Christie



## Summer Tuesdays!

Fun for kids every Tuesday afternoon  
St Serf's Church, Benarty  
2-3pm Primary School Age  
Games, Activities, Bible Stories, Drama

3-4pm All age crafts and play (under 5s must be accompanied by an adult)

### **FROM THE PARISH ASSISTANT**

I have now been with St. Serf's for over a year and it feels as if I have been here forever. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming that I feel so much at home. Since the last Newsletter I have had a time of many changes and upheavals. The Christmas Season was such a joyous time with the congregation, and January was a more quiet, reflective month. At the end of January, I had the most amazing holiday, which led straight into Lent. A Lent course was run called 'Finding a Voice' based on the film 'The King's Speech'. Unfortunately, during Lent, the snow came, and I fell and broke my wrist. This meant massive change for me, also affecting other people. The Lent study was postponed for two weeks, which meant it ran into Easter, and it caused a disruption to people's routine for the six weeks of Lent.

It also meant I had to get buses, which gave me a new insight into other peoples lives, but it also allowed me time to read books that I had never got around to. That time of change, and adaptation made me realise how I cope with a change in my life, while also making me think about others. Especially how we react when change is forced on us rather than those changes we chose, and how difficult these situations can be. All of us will go through times of great change in our lives but 'I the Lord do not change' (Malachi 3:6).

Wishing everyone a wondrous, joyous and restful summer.

**Pamela Scott**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE GROUP**

As the Newsletter is no longer published four times a year and elders are only calling twice a year, it may be that some members are having difficulty getting their free will offering envelopes, fabric envelopes and/or fabric boxes to the Church. Fabric envelopes are handed out with the Newsletter in June and fabric boxes are counted at other times in the year.



Anyone who has a problem should contact their elder, whose telephone number should be on the front of this newsletter. If there is still a problem with collection, you can telephone me - June Kerr, a member of Finance Group tel. 01592 781866 and I will arrange for collection.

### **WELFARE GROUP**



Hello all,

Well it is that time of year again with gardens full of lovely spring flowers and some sunny days raising our spirits and hopes for a nice summer. This year our coffee morning will be on the 9th of June so be sure to put that date in your diary (no holidays allowed!) So come along and sample our home baking and tombola. Another important date to remember is Saturday, 6th October as this is the date of our Senior Members Tea and Concert which is open to all who are members of St. Serfs and have attained the age of 65 years and over. We are being entertained this year by a group called "Stagestruck". Perhaps you may know Margo Imrie who is a member of that group?.

Invitations have been inserted in this newsletter and, if you have not accepted in the past you are still very welcome. Arrangements can be made for anyone requiring transport to the church and back home. Please submit your name to me, Brenda Dickson, 01383 733399 or Anne Scott, 01592 780436. The Welfare Group look forward to seeing you all later in the year but, in the meantime please remember June 9th.

Brenda Dickson. Secretary.

### **THE DROP IN**

We resumed in January after our Christmas break. It was nice to see familiar faces as well as some new ones. We meet on Thursday in St. Serf's Lochgelly from 10am till 12noon. We have a summer break from 24th May until September when you will be welcome to join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a blether.

Margaret Swan.



### **CHURCH WEBPAGE**

[www.stserfschurch.co.uk](http://www.stserfschurch.co.uk)

You can also keep in touch on Facebook at Lochgelly and Benarty St. Serf's Church.

## FROM THE SESSION CLERK

This is my first report as Session Clerk, following Ian's recent resignation. I would like to thank Ian for his guidance when I took over as Depute Session Clerk in November 2016.

Muriel Willoughby has now completed her two years as Interim Moderator with us and I thank her for her support. Our new Interim Moderator is Miss Morag Crawford DCS who is Deacon at Rosyth Parish Church and I hope everyone will make her feel welcome.

Geoff continues working as our Locum. He is kept busy with visiting the sick and conducting funerals. Pamela (Parish Assistant) has settled in well and is a hard worker. Aileen Christie (Outreach Worker) is our latest addition to the team and we are looking forward to working with her in the future.

Sadly over the last few months we have lost many faithful members of the church and our thoughts are with their families.

At the recent Elders Day Conference we were updating the Church Roll and Supplementary Roll. This is an onerous task and could take some time before it is completed.

A Local Church Review took place recently and we have now received the report back from Presbytery. Further information will be given in due course.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and I will do my best to carry out the duties of Session Clerk as required.

Betty Martin

## WEDDING

Heather Blackwood  
to  
Alan McNeice  
in St. Serf's Benarty  
19th May 2018



## FROM THE TREASURER

At the Stated Annual Meeting in March I was able to report that donations in 2017 at £55,113 had increased from 2016 and I thanked the members for their continuing generosity. Some had noted my requests to examine their giving, use gift aid where they could and consider making a standing order in favour of the Church and we now have 17 standing orders every month allowing more certainty on the income front. 74 members have made a gift aid declaration. Expenditure in 2017 totalled £92,290 and that means that our receipts in 2018 will have to increase if we are not to end up in deficit. We are dependent increasingly on the extra income we get from fundraising and rental from third parties using the Church and halls. Any ideas on how we can increase our receipts such as the recent call to consider 'Easyfundraising' will be welcomed by the Finance Group.



The budget for 2018 is included in this newsletter to give you the full picture of what we anticipate spending this year. It also shows what we need to bring in to achieve even a small surplus. We will continue the practice of showing each week's receipts in the following week's order of service to give an indication of how we are doing. We also need to bear in mind the costs of work repairing and improving the buildings which does not appear in the budget. Some works will be done this year but the money currently available is limited and last year only £1,191 was raised for fabric work. Thought needs to be given to giving more money specifically for fabric work. There are already fabric fund gift aid envelopes available and we are now introducing envelopes for flower fund donations as well. If you are an income tax payer and donate monies for fabric or flowers use the envelopes to let the church claim a bit extra on the donation.

Robin Millar

see overleaf

## St Serf's Church Lochgelly and Benarty Budget Monitoring Statement

	2018 Budget
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>NATIONAL MINISTRY</b>	
Ministries and Mission Allocation	28,818
Presbytery Dues	1,500
<b>LOCAL STAFFING COSTS</b>	
Ministry Team Travelling Expenses	3,000
Ministry Team Telephone/Stationery	600
Pulpit Supply and Locum	11,200
Salaries: Organists	2,500
Church Officers	3,120
Cleaners	3,120
PAYE, NI & Pension	1,000
<b>BUILDING COSTS</b>	
Heating and Lighting	7,500
Insurance	4,594
Council Tax	1,400
<b>OTHER LOCAL COSTS</b>	
Printing and Stationery (net)	800
Publicity and Advertising	600
Cleaning Contract, materials etc.	350
Church and Manse garden expenses	800
Sunday School books and materials	110
Licences	750
Church Telephone & Broadband	650
New Projects	500
New Equipment	0
Miscellaneous	150
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>73,062</b>

<b>LESS ORDINARY GENERAL INCOME</b>	
Congregational Organisations	2,500
Income from use of premises	9,500
Income from weddings and funerals	1,000
Regular fundraising	8,900
Dividends and Interest	3,150
	<u>25,050</u>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>48,012</b>
<b>OFFERINGS</b>	
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	12,500
Gift Aid Donations	22,000
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	8,500
Ordinary Offerings	4,000
Other Offerings, Donations etc.	2,000
	<u>49,000</u>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>988</b>



The Fellowship, Bible Study has been a bit more sporadic than normal, since December, due to many meetings being held on a Tuesday evening and other factors. The Lyfe Bible Study resources are still being used except during the period of Lent. The people from the Fellowship and some others attended the Lent Study 'Finding a Voice' based on the film 'The King's Speech'. Anyone who feels that they wish to join the group, to think a bit more about the love God has for us, would be made very welcome