



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome from Rev Michael McMullin

Hello everyone,

This is nearly six months with you all now, and it feels like the time has just flown by. It's been a marvellous experience getting to know my way around the parish, and everywhere I have gone I have been met with a warm welcome. What has also struck me has been a willingness among the wider community to engage with exploring what we as a Church family can do to continue to be relevant in their daily lives. It's these seeds for mission which are filling me with such excitement for the future.

The one thing which we all, and especially myself, have to accept, and help each other with, is to have patience!!! Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will many of our outreach initiatives if they are to be successful and sustainable. But likewise, however tempting it might feel at times, it's no use putting things off indefinitely. That's why it's so good to see things like the "Soup-Lunch" on a Wednesday starting soon; the pilot scheme to support families, *KIDS MATTER*, beginning to take shape; and the response from our Craft Group to an appeal from a local school slowly taking shape too. On their own they might seem like small things, small stones if you like, but together they are going to make positive differences, and they are all built around our keystone, as Brothers and Sisters in Christ.....FAITH.

It's been great too to see new faces coming along to Church on Sunday, nearly every week, and also watching the numbers growing who are choosing to stay after the service to enjoy a cuppa and a blether. The numbers watching on livestream are steadily rising as well. We had a great attendance at our first Songs of Praise evening service on the last Sunday in September, and I would encourage all who can to come along. It was live streamed too for the first time!!

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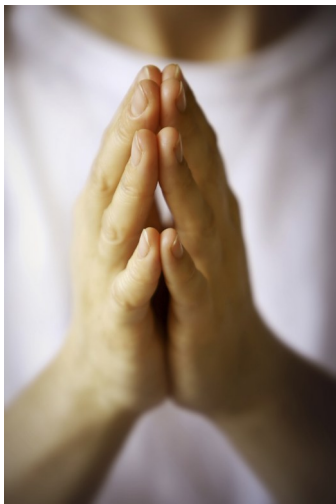
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Before sitting down in my study here in the Manse to write this article, I nipped into Tesco's for some essentials and what did I see? You have probably guessed it; shelves being stocked up with all the Christmas goodies. Not only did it do little for my new diet to see all the tempting chocolate selection boxes, fruit cakes, and plum puddings, but it also reminded me that we are moving into a busy time in the Church Calendar for everyone at Blairgowrie Parish Church.

Then, it shall soon enough be the beginning of Advent, with ... *"Carols in the Wellmeadow"*, *"Carols and Lessons Service"*, *"Newhill Primary School Assembly & Service"*, *"Christmas Eve Christingle Service"*, *"Watchnight Service"*, *"Christmas Day Service"* and various informal services along at some of the local care homes ... so it's going to be a busy time for everyone in our Church family, but what a richly rewarding time for everyone too, and what great opportunities to reach out and let people know what we are about: sharing the Good News ! Please keep all these events in your prayers, and although we can't expect it to be warm, let's pray at least for a dry day for the *Carols in the Wellmeadow*.

We shall also be having a *"Blue Christmas Service"* for the first time, on the 20th December at 6.00pm. This will be a quiet, reflective service, aimed at reaching out to those who are perhaps struggling a wee bit, with whatever challenges they are facing. Perhaps grief, loneliness, isolation, or whatever other individual challenge someone may be encountering, can all feel a bit overwhelming when there seems to be so much going on, and we wish people to feel that they are not forgotten about, and that their challenges are being recognised.

Lastly, can I take the opportunity, on behalf of Yana and I, to wish everyone in our Church family, and in the wider Blairgowrie Community a happy and enjoyable time, as we travel towards the end of 2026, and ...



"Amid the hustle and bustle, help us to find stillness in Your presence. May we feel the comfort of Your love surrounding us, calming our worries and fears. Let Your peace reign in our gatherings and in our hearts, guiding our thoughts and actions. May we reflect Your serenity to those around us, creating a sanctuary of peace."

God Bless

Michael

Tea for CHAS (Children's Hospices across Scotland)

On Monday 5th October the Guild invited friends from the congregation and from the community to take tea with us—and all we asked in return was a donation to CHAS. The generosity of our friends took our breath away, with £663 handed to CHAS at a gala event in the same week. Thank you to everyone who joined us and who gave so generously. We hope you enjoyed your tea.

The Guild



Carols in the Wellmeadow

For several years our outside worship has been superbly organised by Morag and Keith Redwood. Sadly they are no longer able to continue with this task so we give them our grateful thanks for all they have done.

We also give thanks to Andy Lang who has agreed to take on the organisation of our Christmas Carols in the Wellmeadow service. Andy will, of course, be well supported by others who bring their experience of working with Morag and Keith, and still more who haven't been involved before. Other churches are involved too and we look forward to the event on Saturday 12th December@ 11am.

Please put this date in your diary and make yourself known to Andy if you would like to help with this event.



CAROLS IN THE WELLMEADOW

— Led by Local Churches —

Saturday 12 December
11:00 am • Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie

Join Us

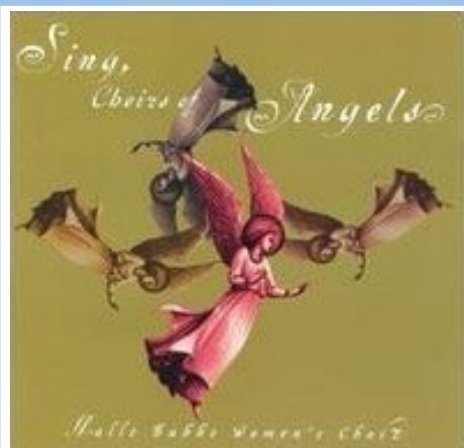
Hear the story of Christmas and join together
in singing well-known carols.

All Welcome

After the Carols

Refreshments served in the Parish Church Hall.

If the weather is poor, the event will take place in the Church Hall.



***Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God in the highest'***

Possibly by John Francis Wadwe (Ch4 Hymn 306)
CCL No. 1180210 Blairgowrie Parish Church

Mission and Outreach Group

"Go in to all the World and preach the Gospel to all Nations" **Mark 16:15.**



The Mission and Outreach Group meets regularly. This amazing team works tirelessly to fulfil the above verse from Mark's Gospel. Currently we are moving forward in several areas to reach out to our church family and community.

'Messy Vintage', is Christ centred and creative, full of celebration and hospitality and open to all, aspiring to include people of all ages while specifically reaching out to older people. Each session will involve hands-on creative activities to explore a story from the Bible and a short celebration with story, song and prayer and refreshments. Our first meeting was held on Monday 28th September 2026 from 2.00-3.30pm in the Church Hall on the theme of Harvest Thanksgiving. The meetings will be held monthly and are open to everyone.

On 13th, 14th and 15th October, we will be holding a children's Holiday Club from 2.00pm till 4.00pm in the Church Hall. The J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Club will be focusing on "Heroes" this time. We are looking forward to the excitement and parents/grandparents are welcome for a cuppa and a chat. There is no charge. We are also planning a week-long, summer holiday club for July next year.

S.U. – Connect, which is open to teenagers within the local area, meets on the last Friday of the month in the Church Hall. Mary Mackay and Keith Redwood are our enthusiastic representatives in this Scripture Union group, along with some from other churches and around 8 teenagers are attending. Each relaxed and friendly meeting includes food, games and Christian study time.

Two of our members, Mary and Yana, have been on a residential course, learning about 'Kids Matter', an initiative partnering with Churches and local organisations to deliver highly effective and accessible parenting programmes within the local area. We are hoping to develop this within our Church and local Community and as a new venture we ask that you remember us and Mary and Yana in prayer.



We are also exploring the possibility of having a "Soup Lunch" on a Wednesday lunch time, for the local community and we thank the Bible Study group for supporting this.

Our Minister, Michael, is engaging with the local primary school and there are opportunities for our Craft Group to share craft skills with the children. Again, this is a new and exciting venture and we are looking forward to it.

As we reach out in many other areas, we look forward to developing more initiatives, especially with the young folks in the town as we seek to serve the Lord. Please remember our work in your prayers.

If you would like to join us in Mission and Outreach, you would be made most welcome.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Who should I send?" "Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am, send me." **Isaiah 6:8**

Margaret Conroy: Convener

The Guild: *'Whose we are and Whom we Serve'*

This is the final year of our three-year strategy, "Let us Build a House" which began in 2024. We have explored the Gospel messages of 'Sure Foundations' and 'Living Stones' and this year our theme is 'Beyond the Walls', reaching out to our Church Family, Local Community and further afield.

Our new session began with a very special Dedication Service where members dedicated their work and themselves to the Lord. During this service the Guild gifted the church 2 new offering bags, and these were blessed and then used for the first time. Our first meeting was held the following day when we came together in Faith, for Fun and Fellowship.



We have a very exciting syllabus which reflects our theme, 'Beyond the Walls', and emphasises the role we must play as we reach out to those in our congregation, communities and beyond.

Our Guild Syllabus for this session includes those in our Leadership Team – sharing the Opening Meeting, Messy Guild, Poetry and Short Stories, St. Andrew's Scottish Afternoon, Readings and Carols and Easter Monday Praise. We are also delighted that our first meeting in 2027 will be led by Michael, our minister, taking a Bible Study. We have invited speakers from the local community too – Ukraine's Children's Ministry, Riding for the Disabled, Blairgowrie Bookshop, and Moyness Garden Centre.

During this three-year programme, the Guild has supported projects set out by the National Council. The projects chosen for 'Let us Build a House', are:

Bear Necessities - supporting social and educational projects in a small Bulgarian village and including building a Church.

H.O.P.E. – the voice of persecuted Christians, this charity serves Christian communities across Egypt who are facing extreme poverty and marginalisation.

Scottish Bible Society – helping to provide every baby born in Scotland with a 'Share a Story Bible' on their first birthday and a Bible related gift every year till they reach the age of 5yrs.

Crossreach: Playful Beginnings - supporting families in Edinburgh with the Sunflower Garden project and in Glasgow with the Daisy Chain project to ensure infants have the best possible start in life by developing strong, positive relationships between parents and child. Demand and the need for help is huge.

Over the last two years, Guilds across Scotland have raised over £275,500 to help in these projects.

Another area we wish to support is that of the Children's Hospices across Scotland as they seek to refurbish their Hospices and develop further home support to many families. We held a CHAS Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall on the 5th of October from 2.00pm and included a Bring and Buy Sale. Other planned fundraising for all of the causes we support includes our Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning on 21st November from 10.00am in the Church Hall and our Spring Coffee Morning will be on 20th March 2027 again at 10.00am in the Church Hall. An invitation to come to our meetings is extended to everybody. We'd love to see you and going 'Beyond the Walls' is an opportunity for us to build relationships with others within and outside our Church.

In **Matthew 22;39** we read, *'Love your Neighbour as yourself'*

Margaret Conroy, for the Guild Leadership Team

A Word from the Session Clerk

It has been 4 months since I became the Session Clerk, and I really don't know where those months have gone. I have learned a lot and begun to get a grip on some things – yet I know I've really only just started to learn what questions to ask. I am aware I am still moving from task to task (aided by enormous lists to help me keep on top of things!) but I'm sure I will become more confident in time. In our last newsletter I reflected on change and looked forward to a new normality writing 'I am reminded that the heart of our church life ... is our great, unchanging God...We give thanks that we will still be worshipping Him together and doing His work together, tomorrow, next week, next year and every year' - and that very much still applies today. Changes are still happening and the new normal hasn't entirely bedded in yet but some changes are becoming familiar. We are getting to know our new minister, we expect the Bible to be brought into the sanctuary ahead of worship, we know it is the Revised Standard Version rather than the Good News version, and we are familiar with offering collection bags now, instead of the open plate. In time bigger changes will become familiar too.

Meanwhile, in our Working Groups, we have been reviewing the way we work and how we serve God in Blairgowrie. As a result some of our treasured activities, such as the monthly Messy Church, have had to be paused because they no longer meet the needs of our community or our mission and they need time to renew, to change shape and start again. Meanwhile the 'messy' principles are being used to reach the older people in our community with Messy Vintage. The children's holiday club continued in October and there are plans underway for a week long holiday club in the church in Summer 2027, run by Scripture Union. We have said goodbye to friends as they've moved on and we are beginning to welcome new members. The minister is running 'Exploring Faith' sessions for potential new communicants in October and he has 5 people signed up so far.

It is important to remember the past with gratitude, of course, but now it is time to discover what God is doing in our church today. Things are happening! There is so much more I could say but time and space won't allow so I think I'll refer you to the new sign! I hope you like it.

Finally I must thank everyone. I've had so much help from within the church, from Kirk Session, from the minister and from presbytery. I am not naming particular names because I know I'll miss someone, but you know who you are and I thank you for your prayers, support, guidance and most of all, your patience. God bless you.

Colleen Joslin, Session Clerk



The Lumos Candlelit Concert at the Church

On Friday October 2nd the sanctuary was filled with candles for 2 Lumos concerts of Coldplay music played classically. This was the first time most of us can remember the church being used for a concert of this kind, but we hope it won't be the last.

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group meets approximately every two months to review those on the list for visiting and to consider additional or alternative provision. We currently have 15 people on the visiting list for pastoral care and each receives a visit approximately every six weeks. These visits are to show we care and to provide some social interaction.

Cards are sent to those in hospital, to bereaved families and whenever we hear of a special need, to show the Church cares and is thinking of the person or family. Ten cards have been sent over the last two months. Elders have been diligent about letting us know when they find a need and we thank them for that. Communication is vital. We only know of a need when we are told.

The Craft Group is also a place where the chat and companionship can provide pastoral care. And that group continues to knit for the Crossreach Centre at Perth Prison for families.

We are very short on members as two or three of the group have recently had to pull out and we urgently need three or four new members to keep up with visiting needs. This need is currently being intimated at Services.

Esther Dingwall (Convener)

Pastoral care
relationships find
their basis and
power in the
midst of grace.

Update:

Just before this newsletter was printed, Esther resigned from her role as Convener of the Pastoral Working Group and we send her our thanks for her work to date. We will, of course, be looking for a new convener and we invite anyone who might be interested to be in touch with **Michael or Colleen.**

The Church Website

Go to <https://www.blaigowrieparishchurch.org.uk> for our:

- * Seasonal pastoral letter
- * Monthly prayer diary
- * Triannual newsletter
- * Daily reflections
- * Live streaming and video recordings of morning worship
- * Daily bible verse
- * Worship resources
- * Links to other Christian materials
- * Information about church groups

Find us on



Training 16/17 September 2026

Yana McMullin and Mary Mackay travelled to the Conforti Centre in Coatbridge for a residential two-day training session on how to facilitate a **Kids Matter** six-week parenting programme for families of young children (aged 1-10).



The programme is aimed predominantly at those parents or carers who are experiencing 'low support' and is designed to enable them to grow in Confidence, Competence and Community – the three C's. It comes under the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), within the Early Intervention framework <https://earlyinterventionframework.nhs.scot>

There is always a church connection, although there is no mention of anything religious in any of the sessions. Nonetheless, it does provide an opportunity to invite parents to other relevant things organised by the church and perhaps at the end of the programme, to continue building the new community that may have emerged.

It is presented as a six-week parenting programme, although there is also a Taster Session for prospective parents or carers the week beforehand; a Booster Session around three months afterwards; and a coffee catch-up midway between the last session and the Booster. So, nine interventions in all.

Participants are issued with a different booklet at each of the six sessions. The facilitators booklets are similar, except that they have questions to be introduced (in blue writing). We were given role plays to do which were extremely useful. We had to remember we are not the expert; we are just facilitating the wisdom (or as they termed it, the gold) in the room.

There were around six parishes represented; 12 participants altogether. This allowed us to get to know the other church folk who would be involved in carrying out the same programme.

Kids Matter will unite us in a WhatsApp group so we can discuss issues amongst each other. We will also have a **Kids Matter** Coach.

Our next step is to find potential participants, and we will liaise with the Minister in the first instance on this, before embarking on our own links in the community.

Mary Mackay and Yana McMullin

Communion Invitation



Blairgowrie Parish Church has an open table. This means everyone is welcome to join in our celebration of the sacrament. The bread we use is now entirely gluten and lactose free, so is suitable for vegans as well as those with food intolerances, and the wine is non-alcoholic. You will be welcomed and very much included at our next Communion service on Sunday 1st November at 11am.

Goodbye and Thanks to Niall Jack

During October we said goodbye to Niall Jack as he returned to his home in South Africa. Niall has been one of our worship music team during his extended stay in Blairgowrie, regularly playing the organ for our Sunday services and the bugle for our Remembrance services. His time with us, and our appreciation of it, was recognised at our evening Songs of Praise service on Sunday 27th September. The service was led by Niall, who played the organ for hymns of his choice with Paul Blackburn supporting him on the bagpipes. Thank you and God bless you, Niall. Travel safely – and we hope we'll see you in Blairgowrie again in the future.



Tayside & Strathearn Help for Ukraine (TASH): Appeal

TASH has approached the church for help with its latest appeal. The people of Ukraine are still in great need, and their situation will worsen as winter arrives. Items to support them are being collected in a warehouse in Errol and transported monthly by lorry. We have been asked to help with items to meet their needs during the cold months, including sleeping bags, bedding, torches, batteries, Jerry cans, thermos flasks, candles and medical/ First Aid supplies – and also non-perishable foods and items that would fill Christmas stockings. One load has been collected already and another is developing in the Lower Hall. Thank you to everyone who has helped.



Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Romans 8:26



Communications Group

Although small in number, the Communications Group continues with its work both inside and outside the church. Outside, the noticeboard at the front door has been updated in the 'official' church colour and font and this colour and font will also be used for the poster board 'on the grass' which has been redesigned, with the right-hand side to be fitted with a landscape A2 locking box for additional information. We have been successful in our application to Tayside Contracts Community Fund for this work and it will be going ahead very soon. Meanwhile, the 'Who's Who' board for the front vestibule is work in progress with photographs taken and frame bought.



Also indoors we have been busy training members in using the Sound, Streaming and Projection stations at the AV desk. At the moment we have several who can operate the Sound station, 3 who can do the Streaming, and 3 who can do the Projection, but only a couple who can make up the Schedule needed for projection. Ideally, we would like to have four or five confident in operating each station, and eventually combine the Streaming and Sound into one station. We are starting training sessions on Wednesdays at 3.00 pm for projection, and

7.00 pm for streaming from 30th September. These will then be swapped over. If you would like to find out more about the system then just come along.

Making up the weekly Schedule is fairly straight forwards although rather time-consuming. At the moment all of the CH4 is in the Bank of Songs, so it is just a matter of deleting the hymns from one week, and adding the hymns for the forthcoming week. The Call to Worship responses and the Readings are then edited, and the Intimations section updated. Other changes can be made as needed.

Streaming takes place 'on the day', and although we know what picture is going out, we cannot always be sure about sound. The skill with this is the timing because the microphones take a few seconds to switch on. Practice is helping us to improve and with the recent transfer of YouTube control from a single person to the church, we will easily be able to set up future training. Live Streaming also brings in the question of privacy for members of the congregation, but fixed position cameras means we can easily define the areas shown when live streaming and we have plans at each door to allow the congregation to choose to sit where there is no risk of being filmed.

The Session Clerk now has a separate e-mail (sessionclerkbpc@gmail.com) and a church phone (**07728 824581**), both of which can be transferred to a deputy when she is away, or at any other time should the need arise.

The Communications Group would like to see a team of two or three sharing the load of the weekly printing of the pew leaflet and we would welcome new members to work with us in this important aspect of church activity.

David P. Howat, Convener.



(From) **Church is a Verb**



Church mice, church music and church history
all try to tell us it's an adjective.
Others have chiselled or boxed it into a noun -
a building or a social club.
But don't be fooled: church is a verb.
It is something that we do.

It's not a complicated verb. It comes in simple sentences
like *How are you?* and *Can I help?* and *Let us pray.*
But it's a highly irregular verb and won't do what it's told.
It turns up anywhere with the most unlikely subjects.

We can't easily go to look at church.
We only find the evidence that church has happened somewhere.
Something broken has been mended.
Someone is alive.
Two are as one.
More is here now than there was before.

There will come a time for church to get dressed up
ready for its marriage, ready to settle down and become a noun,
but until then church is the living Word
spoken in verbs.

Godfrey Rust (2003)

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Newsletter Producer/ Editor Needed

Do you have the skills to work with us
to produce this newsletter 3 times
annually? Do you fancy yourself as
journalist, editor or designer? Would

you like to try? If so, then please be in touch with **Morag Redwood
or Colleen Joslin**. We'd love to hear from you.

Thank You

**Our Church is most
certainly a verb!** We give
thanks with grateful hearts to
all who have supported us
both through prayer and
hands-on practical help
during Morag's recent health
issues. To feel God working
in our lives in answer to
prayer is powerful and
humbling, and the
unwavering support of our
brothers and sisters in Christ
has made us value being part
of our church's caring and
active fellowship.

God bless.

Morag and Keith Redwood

*'for God loves a cheerful
giver. And God is able to
provide you with every
blessing in abundance, so
that you may always have
enough of everything and
may provide in abundance
for every good work.'*

2 Corinthians 2:7-8



GENEROSITY

"True giving, is to those who can never repay you."

Craft Group News



We began the new session at the beginning of September and it was lovely to re-connect and hear everyone's news. Although we knit, crochet, sew and embroider, we also like to chat so sharing news is an important part of the time we spend together.

Some of our members are real experts, some are learners and others are encouragers. There is plenty room for everyone –

1 Corinthians, 12 explains how everyone has a place at the table and it is always worth re-reading familiar bible passages.

We were sorry that Dorothea and Ann have both moved on but we send them our love and best wishes for their future endeavours.

Moira, a stalwart supporter of the Craft Group, celebrated her 90th birthday in September. We are very grateful that Moira initiated our relationship with Crossreach Visitor Centre at Perth prison. We continue to pass on handcrafted items such as pram blankets and clothes for babies & toddlers that our members have made. This is greatly appreciated by Elaine and her team at the prison and the families who receive them.

We meet every Wednesday morning from 10.00 – 12.00 in the Choir Room. If you do have time to pop in, you are assured of a warm welcome and a cup of coffee. We would appreciate a few more volunteers for our rota, so please speak to Elinor Smith, Ruth Brand or Grace Saunders if this is an area where you could make a contribution. **Elinor Smith**



Group members, guided by the expertise of Christine Pate, recently assembled floral arrangements for Harvest Thanksgiving.



Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

At Bible Study on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm about eight of us are studying the growth of the early church in the book of Acts. It has been thrilling to learn how God worked in those early days of the church. Each meeting lasts about an hour and closes with a time of prayer.



Over the last few years arrangements have been made for us to receive the quarterly Our Daily Bread Bible Reading Notes. These are free for uplift for anyone who would like a copy. There are copies in the Church vestibule. They have been well received although different reading notes are used by others as well.

Another group meets on a Sunday for Prayer @ Ten. This is to pray for the service at eleven, praying for those who take part and all who attend. It lasts about half an hour and people should feel free to come and go depending on what essential commitments they have like Tea Duty, Organ or Bell ringing. Prayer is silent or aloud. Please think about coming if only for a few minutes. As we're finding from our Bible Studies, prayer is like the heartbeat of all we do and plan, as it was for the early church.

Marjorie Ferguson

Finance Report



There is not a great deal to report on this month (September) other than the normal routine income and expenditure.

Our main source of income is still from Freewill Offerings (FWO). Compared to the same time last year (end of August) this saw an increase of £4661 but hall rental income is down by £1036. It is difficult to establish a reason for either of these just now. A grant of £5000 was received towards the supply and installation of the

Solar Panels at the Manse.

On the expenditure side repairing and maintaining the Stannah stairlift has cost £2781 this year. Energy costs remain unchangingly similar to last year at £10,000 to date. Major expenditure, if we exclude the cost of the Audio-Visual System, is down by £4,500 but there are a number of big expenses waiting in the wings! Some unexpected problems with the manse fabric have required essential repairs, costing £9647 so far this year, and we have more to be completed. We were also responsible for the costs (£5730) incurred by Michael's move to Blairgowrie to take up the charge.

As you can gather expenditure continues to crawl out of the woodwork. Our present financial position as of 14th September 2026 is Bank of Scotland £26,690; Growth Fund £156,227.

Bob Strachan: Treasurer

Birthday Flowers

Margaret Conroy, on behalf of The Guild presented long-term member and ex-president, Moira Sommerville, with a bouquet of flowers in celebration of her 90th birthday.

Many happy returns Moira.

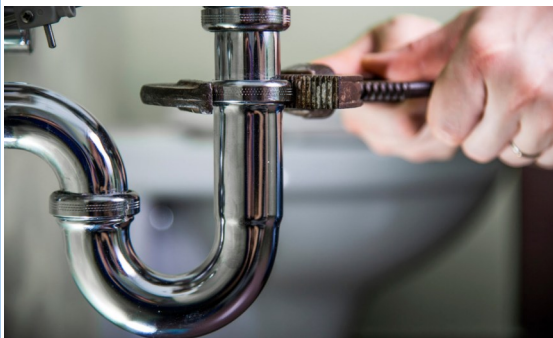


Fabric Working Group

The Fabric Working Group has been busy over the summer with issues in both the manse and the halls.

At the manse, plumbing and drainage problems have required several contractor visits and are not yet resolved, so the saga there continues. Other more manageable issues (failed oven, mice and rotting bargeboards) have been, or are in the process of being, addressed. We are grateful for the patience of the manse family as we have worked through these issues.

In the Church building a significant leak in a heating pipe in the Lower Hall, requiring water to be turned off at that point, means we have been unable to heat the north side of the church for some months. Fortunately the weather has been kind to us so it has not been a problem so far, giving us



time to bring in contractors to attempt repairs. Unfortunately two repair attempts have failed and it has become clear that a replacement pipe is necessary, a big task as it runs from the boiler room, under the organ loft and across to the key room at the other side of the building. As autumn approaches the Fabric Group is anxious to ensure the heating can function fully again. The Kirk Session has now approved a quote for the work and it will be completed as

soon as the plumber is able to schedule it.

Beyond the repair and maintenance activities, the Fabric Group has also been looking at the sustainability of our buildings for the future. A meeting with the Presbytery Buildings Officer was encouraging, with ideas on a range of factors (renewable heating, replacement windows in the halls, potential for financial support in some circumstances, disability access etc.) for us to consider and work is ongoing with Perth and Kinross Council around the planning permission required to replace hall windows.

I am delighted to let you know that James Blair and Phil Murrie have volunteered to co-convene the Fabric Working Group and Kirk Session has

approved their appointment. I thank them both for stepping up in this way. They do need support though, so I encourage anyone who feels able to help with organising or even undertaking some of the practical care for our buildings - the visible face of our faith in our community - to be in touch and to consider joining the Fabric Group.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters

Colossians 3: 23-24

Colleen Joslin, Interim Convener



Great News

An Audience with ... Moira Somerville



Welcomed into Moira's home, I am warmly greeted with a handshake by her husband, Jim. Meanwhile, nonagenarian (by the time you read this) Moira has the kettle on, with a beautifully laid out tray decked with home baking.

I ask: How long have you been coming to this church? Since 1990. Prior to that I attended Scone Old, under Rev. Bruce Thompson, where I was president of The Guild.

What sort of things have you been involved in here? Mainly in The Guild as Tea Lady, Secretary

and President. I was also a member of the Centenary Committee that opened up/removed the then Stage Area in the Hall and rearranged the Kitchen and Toilet areas as well. The current toilets were storage areas and Session Room. Before that, there was only the toilet in the minister's Vestry in the Halls area. I was also a 'Posy Lady', one of three of us who would organise a special posy of flowers for the mother of any child being baptised here. I was a member of Presbytery going to Pitlochry and sharing a car with our then minister Rev. Harry Mowbray. There were also the Berry Pickers Ceilidhs, which were fun - an overflow from the Town Hall event.

What did you like the most, and why? The Guild, not only serving in church, but also in the Presbytery Council and National Council of the Guild. I was involved in writing the annual theme packs, e.g. subject; readings; prayers.

Have you always believed in God/had faith? Being born into a Christian family - my father was a medical missionary in south India - being a Christian was just like eating, drinking and breathing. When I was twelve, I had to leave India because I kept getting malaria, which was very serious, so I had to stay in Scotland with a cousin who was very kind.

Do you have a story about what God has done in your life? Things have happened to me throughout my life which were potentially bad but turned out to be good in the end.

(This reminds me of the Bible verse in Romans 8:28 ... 'all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.') I am therefore convinced that God has been taking care of me.

Are there any changes that particularly stand out? Fellowship improved through Soup Lunches which I helped to start; coffees after church make us feel more like a family, which is important.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about? I always believed my faith was important to my profession. From around the age of four I wanted to become a nurse and did progress through nursing until I retired in 1996. I like being able to help people.

Thank you for taking the time to speak to us, it has been really enlightening.



By Mary Mackay.

Church Diary Dates:



Nov. 1st	Communion, 11am
Nov. 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th	Prayer@10, 10am
Nov. 2 nd , 16 th , 30 th	Guild, 2pm
Nov. 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	Craft Group, 10.30am
Nov. 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	Bible Study, 2pm
Nov. 8 th	Remembrance Service, 10.45am
Nov. 21 st	Guild Coffee Morning & Christmas Fair, 10am
Nov. 29 th	First Sunday of Advent, 11am
Nov. 29 th	Songs of Praise Service, 6pm.

Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th	Bible Study, 2pm
Dec. 6 th , 13 th , 20 th	Prayer@10, 10am
Dec. 7 th	Guild Christmas Lunch
Dec. 9 th	Craft Group, 10.30am
Dec. 12 th	Carols in the Wellmeadow, 11am
Dec 14 th	Guild Carols and Readings, 2pm
Dec. 20 th	'Blue Service', 7pm
Dec. 22 nd	Lessons and Carols, 7.30pm
Dec. 23 rd	Newhill Primary School End-of-Term, 11am
Dec. 24 th	Christingle, 6pm
Dec. 24 th	Watchnight Service, 11.30pm
Dec. 25 th	Family Service, 10.30am

Jan 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st	Prayer@10, 10am
Jan. 4 th , 18 th	Guild
Jan. 5 th	Social Club Restart
Jan 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th	Craft Group, 10.30am
Jan 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th	Bible Study, 2pm

Please check the website - <https://blairgowrieparishchurch.org.uk> - or service intimations for further details or any changes.

Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to receive the church newsletter by email. If you'd like to receive the 3 times yearly newsletter in this way, then please contact me at

sessionclerk-bpc@gmail.com

The newsletter is also available on the church website at

www.blairgowrieparishchurch.org.uk

and we still provide a print copy for those who wish it.



We welcome new ideas and content for each newsletter and guest editing is also appreciated. Please get in touch if you'd like to see any specific new content, or if you would like to help.



Thank you to all who contributed content, photos and help in the making of this edition.

Colleen and Morag