



Changes and Looking Forward

Dear Friends

I can't believe it is October already as I write this. But the colours on the trees just across from our house confirm this is the case. The season recently changed from summer to autumn and this is visible in the trees and plants, and in the earlier darkness. The changing seasons are a part of life.



But as we all know the seasons are not the only changes in our lives. We get older—and wiser? We may become less able as we get older; families grow up and may move away. Children, and even grandchildren, become adults and start giving their parents advice. It sometimes feels that technology has taken over in every sphere of life. The news coming at us from around the world is full of change and turmoil. Values and morals seem to have totally changed. This has been true over all the centuries. Some changes have been for the good and some not so good.

In the Church worldwide we see changes; again some good and some not so good. In our own Church we have seen some changes as folk work to improve the fabric and the audio-visual system. We await another change as a new minister will, in due time, be called to serve our Church.

Sometimes the thought of change makes us apprehensive although it is exciting to look forward. BUT we must never forget one thing that does not change is that God is in control. He **is** in control; He has someone planned to become our minister and God only plans for our good. So as change faces us, look forward and be ready to face all challenges in our future as individuals and as a Church.

Face all things in our futures with faith and trust in our God.

Brian Dingwall: Locum Minister



“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”

Jeremiah 29:11



Church Diary Dates:

Nov. 2nd - Communion Service, 11 am
 Nov. 3rd - Guild, 2pm
 Nov. 6th - Bible Study, 2pm
 Nov. 9th - Remembrance Service, 10.45am
 Nov. 11th - Armistice Day Ceremony, 11am, Wellmeadow
 Nov. 13th - Bible Study, 2pm
 Nov. 16th - Messy Church, 9.30am
 Nov. 17th - Guild, 2pm
 Nov. 20th - Bible Study, 2pm
 Nov. 22nd - Guild Christmas Coffee Morning, 10am
 Nov. 26th - Kirk Session, 7.00pm
 Nov. 27th - Bible Study, 2pm
 Nov. 30th - Evening Praise Service, 6pm , 1st Sunday in Advent.
 Dec. 1st - Guild Christmas Lunch, 12.30pm
 Dec. 4th - Bible Study, 2pm
 Dec. 7th - Café Early Service, 9.30am, 2nd Sunday in Advent
 Dec.11th - Bible Study, 2pm
 Dec. 13th - Carols in the Wellmeadow, 11am
 Dec. 14th - 3rd Sunday in Advent Service
 Dec. 15th - Guild, 2pm
 Dec. 18th - Carols and Lessons, 7pm
 Dec. 21st - 4th Sunday in Advent Service
 Dec. 24th - Christingle Service, 6.30pm
 Dec. 24th - Midnight Service, 11.30pm
 Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Family Service, 10.30 am
 Jan. 4th - Café Early Service, 9.30am
 Jan. 5th - Guild, 2pm
 Jan. 18th - Messy Church, 9.30am
 Jan.25th - Praise Service, 6pm

The school service is still to be confirmed. Please check the church website or service intimations for further details or any changes.

Stamps



Thank you to everyone who has collected and handed in used postage stamps. With Christmas approaching please continue to collect the stamps and either hand them to me or place them in my pigeon hole in the Lower Hall. They will be put to very good use.

Joy Kearns

Newsletter



Thank you to everyone who has signed up to receive the newsletter by email. If you haven't yet but would like to, then please contact me at

colleenajoslin@gmail.com.

The newsletter is also available on the church website at <https://www.blairgowrieparishchurch.org.uk> and we still provide a print copy for those who wish it.

I would welcome ideas for the development of this newsletter though, and some guest editing perhaps. Please be in touch if you'd like to see something more here or if you would like to help.

Colleen

Nominating Committee Update

Over the past months the Nominating Committee has been steadily and prayerfully working through the many early stages of filling a vacancy.

- Details of the vacancy were posted on the Church of Scotland website during July and August with a closing date of September 1st.
- The Committee then met to consider the applications and to decide which to follow up. Some of the applicants provided the means to watch their services and sermons online which was very helpful in supporting our decision making.
- Arrangements were then made to view a selection of these applicants preaching in their current churches, and reports were fed back from these visits to the whole committee .
- Three applicants were invited to visit Blairgowrie for interview (2 accepted) with half the committee providing a formal interview and half undertaking the informal interview involving a tour of the manse and town.
- After this process the Committee then met to make its choice of who to nominate to preach.

It is with great pleasure that we can let you know the offer to preach was accepted by the nominee (on 15th October) and the committee has now made the recommendation to Kirk Session. Session will meet shortly to discuss the nomination and then the congregation will be informed of the nominee's name and the date for preaching .

We thank God for answered prayers. **Colleen Joslin**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 -14



They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

'For the Fallen' by Robert Laurence Binyon (1914)

The Place Where We Are Right

From the place where we are right
Flowers will never grow
In the spring.

The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
Where the ruined
House once stood.

Yehuda Amichai (1924—2000)

Amichai is considered by many to be Israel's greatest modern poet.

From the Session Clerk: Planning For The Future

Following the General Assembly of 2025 each congregation is required to have an Action Plan. The legislation defines an Action Plan as a 'live' document expressing the vision of a charge for its Mission over at least the next five years, taking account of the resources available in terms of personnel, property and finance, and also of the Approved Mission Plan for the Presbytery.

So, what does that look like?

The Action Plan shall set out aims/objectives, a timescale for achievement, notes of annual progress reviews and a 'traffic light indicator' of status, in each of the following areas:

- ♦ Worship & Teaching
- ♦ Pastoral Care & Fellowship
- ♦ Youth & Children
- ♦ Local Mission/Community Outreach
- ♦ Wider Mission, including Ecumenism, Interfaith Relations and relationships with the World Church (as applicable)
- ♦ Finance
- ♦ Communications
- ♦ Property
- ♦ HR/Staffing within the charge e.g. MDS, Reader, locally employed staff
- ♦ Relationship with provisions of Approved Mission Plan for Presbytery

What do we have to do?

The Kirk Session will initially prepare its Action Plan and then submit it to the Presbytery for evaluation, comment and support. After consultation with the Presbytery, the Kirk Session will approve the five-year Action Plan. Thereafter the Action Plan must be reviewed and updated annually in an ongoing process of reflection, planning & action by the Kirk Session with support, encouragement and input from the Presbytery. The Action Plan must be submitted to the Presbytery as part of the annual attestation of records.

The need for this Action Plan will be discussed at the November Meeting of Session and in the meantime, the Working Groups can have a look at the documentation and see where each has been contributing, and plans to contribute, to the life and work within and outwith our church.

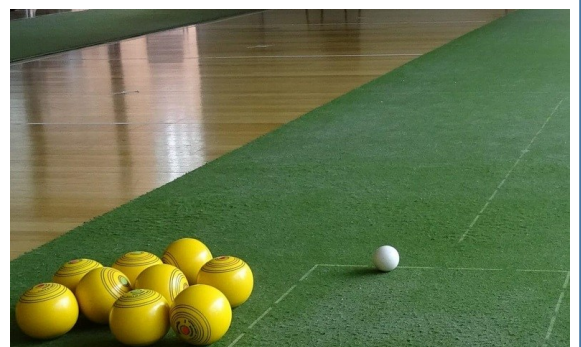
As we actively seek our next minister, this will be an important exercise in sharing our plans and hopes for the future.

Clifford Cooke: Session Clerk

The Social Club

The Social Club has started back for the 2025/26 session with badminton on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30pm and Wednesdays from 7 - 9.30pm and on Fridays for carpet bowls from 10am to 12 noon. We would welcome anyone who wishes to come along to join in, whether to play badminton or bowls or simply to share a chat and a cup of tea. Why not just come along and give it a try? We offer a visitor rate for up to 3 sessions without any obligation to join.

Elaine Dow



Mission and Outreach Working Group

1 Peter 4: 10-11 – *‘Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as Faithful stewards of God’s Grace.’*



During our summer break, the group has been reflecting on how we have been seeking to share and use the gifts we have been given, to be able to serve others. We are striving to share His love creatively and faithfully.

The Welcome Packs created for young children have been much appreciated by our visiting families. The group will continue to develop these further.

We have also published informative leaflets and these are being delivered to new houses within Blairgowrie and also to our Church Family. The leaflets share who we are and what activities occur within our Church and our Church Buildings, providing opportunities for all ages.

We hope to continue with our attendance at ‘town events’ and be a presence there.

We are delighted the ‘Jam Club’ will take place in the Church Hall from 22nd-24th October from 2.00 – 4.00pm and thank all those who make this possible.

One of the areas we have been spending much time on is that of the youth within our community. At present, we are aiming to work with and support Scripture Union and are excited about future prospects. Watch this space for further news.....

I take this opportunity to thank those within our group for their amazing contribution to all aspects of our Mission and Outreach. We also acknowledge the many other groups within our Church family for their contribution and outreach within our church and community.

May we as a Mission and Outreach Group continue to serve our church and community with His Love, taking comfort knowing Christ is always with us.

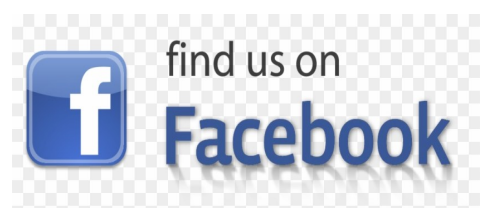
Joshua 1:9 – *‘Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.’*

Margaret Conroy: Convenor

Church Website: <https://www.blairgowrieparishchurch.org.uk>:

From the church website you can access our:

- ⇒ weekly pastoral letter
- ⇒ monthly prayer diary
- ⇒ triannual newsletter
- ⇒ daily reflections
- ⇒ audio and video recordings of morning worship
- ⇒ daily Bible verse
- ⇒ worship resources
- ⇒ links to other Christian materials.





CAROLS IN THE WELLMEADOW

Saturday 13th December at 11am

No, it's not too early to start thinking about Christmas!

Following the success of last year's 'Christmas in the Wellmeadow' and this year's 'Easter Praise', we invite everyone to join us on the 13th December to bring the true story of Christmas to our community.

Previous events brought together fellow Christians from neighbouring churches and members of the public to provide a unified and impactful message of Christian joy. As with last Christmas, we will again support the 'Shine Your Light' campaign in which Christians all across the UK and Ireland will bring the Good News out onto the streets on a specific weekend. Last year, 'Shine Your Light' reported the success of our event on their website (<https://www.shineyourlight.org.uk/>):

"For the first time in living memory, 85 Christians from seven churches gathered in The Wellmeadow – an open space in the centre of the town – to sing carols and follow the story of the nativity through seven Bible readings. Members of the public joined in, and gifts of Bible texts in raffia-bound mini-scrolls were eagerly accepted, along with free sweets. We returned to the church hall for hot drinks, mince pies, and fellowship."

"The event was a powerful public statement of witness and brought together churches who do not regularly worship together – they included: the Church of Scotland; Catholic; Episcopal; Brethren; and Life Plus. Together, we proclaimed Christ as the focus of Christmas"

'Shine Your Light' vision for December 2025 is

"Imagine 200,000 Christians on the streets at Christmas singing Carols and sharing the Gospel everywhere!"

So let's see if we can increase attendance this year and ensure that folks know that there is a solid Christian presence in Blairgowrie. As with previous events, Keith Redwood will lead the half-hour long praise event of carols and scriptural readings. Please let Morag Redwood (01250 878 312) know if you are willing to deliver a short reading. The script and song sheets will also be used for outreach praise in local care homes.



Fabric Working Group:

Haddow's arrived at the end of August and spent a week revising the heating system. The sanctuary and the hall are now completely separate systems with a storage tank which means warm water is stored and heat is pumped out quicker. Hopefully this will save money as the system doesn't need to run for so long.

The manse has been prepared for a new minister, most of the areas requiring painting have now been completed. The outside and soffits look so much better, the garage has been rubbed down and repainted and looks a more fitting entrance. A fan has been fitted in the downstairs shower room as this was prone to damp.



The steps at the side of the hall have been rubbed down and painted yellow so they are more easily seen in the dark. While doing the job the fabric group had a few 'thank you's' from the people who use the steps. The steps onto Newton Terrace are next and following that the main steps to the church, the technique should be perfected by then!!

James continues to do a great job cutting the grass and tending the garden, it looks so much better. We are extremely grateful to him.

Susan Whiteford: Fabric Convener

Round-up: News in Brief



Birthday Wishes

Special birthday blessings to Rod Chignell who will be 90 years young this coming December. Your church family wishes you a very happy birthday, Rod.

Platinum Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Two of our Church members, Betty and Maurice Robertson celebrated 70 years of married life, their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on the 9th of September 2025. They marked the occasion with a family lunch at the Lands of Loyal Hotel.

We send them both our warmest congratulations and best wishes at this special time.



The Pastoral Care Working Group

Our group continues to offer pastoral care to our church family in a variety of ways.

We continue to visit members of our congregation who are ill, frail or house-bound so if you know of someone whom you think would appreciate having a church visitor, please chat to one of us to arrange this.



We continue to send cards to people who are bereaved or who are ill or suffering injuries. We pray that this brings a measure of comfort to know that their church family is holding them in their thoughts and prayers in difficult times. We can only do this if we are told about these situations so again, if you know of someone who would find this a comfort, please let us know.

With the approach of Christmas, we will be asking St Ninian's, Beech Manor, Northlands and Muirton House if they would like us to provide a service of carols and readings as we did last year and which was greatly appreciated by the residents and the staff.

I am stepping back as Convenor and Esther Dingwall is taking on the convenorship of the group. We really do need some more people to join us, so please consider this prayerfully. There is room for all of us and we can all make a difference. If you have even a little bit of time, it would be great if you could consider joining our small team – people do appreciate a visit from the Church and it brings a blessing to both parties.

Elinor Smith

I am pleased to become part of the Pastoral Care Group and with Elinor's help and guidance I am happy to convene it. This is a vital part of our mission as a local Church.

My email address is esther.dingwall@gmail.com

I trust Elders and others with concern for folk will pass their concern on and the members of the Group will continue to do all they can. Thank you.

Esther Dingwall: Convener

The Worship Working Group



The Worship Group has met on a few occasions over the past months to discuss planning for special events and services.

The Group set the dates for the Wellmeadow events for Easter and Christmas. Our thanks to Keith and Morag Redwood for running these. A rota was drawn up for the Song of Praise Services and a number of different people have led these. Thanks to all of them.

It is good we have a bugler and a piper who will be taking part at the Remembrance Service on November 9th. It is hoped to have the piper again on St Andrew's Day.

Discussion took place about Advent and Christmas Services which will include the Carols and Lessons and the Christingle and Midnight Services. These will involve a number of people.

Thanks to the group for their support and encouragement.

Rev. Brian Dingwall (Locum Minister), Convener

The Communications Working Group



Much of the focus of the group for some time has been on the audio-visual upgrade and Kirk Session, Presbytery, and '121', have all now accepted and approved the proposals. A considerable sum (£36,000+) has been raised by the congregation and through generous gifts to fund the upgrade.

This has met the original target but the delay to allow fund-raising along with global and other events out of our control has increased the price, resulting in a £14,000 shortfall. A Gift Day is arranged for 30th October to try to bridge some of this gap.

It is with pleasure we can report the installation is going ahead though, so planning is taking place to manage it when it happens. The 'Sound Team' has been approached to see if anyone would like to be involved with the visual side of things and several have shown a willingness to undergo the necessary training. We are aiming for a regular rota for both the audio and the visual. It has also been suggested that we could contact the school to see if any senior pupils would be interested in helping. This could possibly tie in with the Duke of Edinburgh Community Work scheme.

Other aspects for consideration just now include the need for a control station for the new audio controller, camera controller and laptop and a person with the skills to build the station has been identified. It is likely that part of a pew will need to be removed though, to provide a useful, flexible area that could be suitable for disabled access so there is no limit on volunteers. A specification will be necessary because permission will be needed.

David has produced an article titled '*The Story of The Audio-Visual Installation and Upgrade*' explaining the long history of the project and it will be included in the next newsletter—with photographs, we hope.

Other Matters

Communication with church members and community. Our next meeting mid-November, will explore ways to further improve our public presence with a focus on the working group (and church) action plan. The group will review its use of social media and look at other ways to distribute information (Discover Blairgowrie, etc) because the 'Blairie' is no longer printing our reports regularly and fewer people are buying it anyway. David and others also plan to make better use of the Church Notice Board.

David P. Howat

Convener



The beautiful colours of autumn in the church, decorated for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on October 12th.

**The land yields its harvest;
God our God blesses us:
Psalm 67.v6**

**He has made everything
beautiful in its time:
Ecclesiastes 2.v11**

The Guild: Let Us Build A House



'Living Stones' 2025-2026.

This is the beginning of our new session and we undertake our work and service with the title of 'Living Stones', part of the Guild strategy for Building our House. This theme follows on from Sure Foundations. Stones in the Bible represent strength, stability and enduring Faith. We are called to be the building stones laid on the cornerstone - Jesus, the Foundation of our Faith. We are the Living Stones building God's Kingdom on earth, being ambassadors for Christ. Putting it simply, God is the Architect and Planner, Jesus is the Cornerstone and Foundation and we are the building material, all bound together by the Holy Spirit.

We are supporting four projects set out by the Guild and also supporting folks within our local community. This year our syllabus has speakers from Crossreach, Scottish Bible Society, and Archie Foundation. Our local speakers are from Mantalk and Wisecraft; Rev. Grace Saunders will share Midwifery to Ministry. Our Leadership Team will host Messy Guild, Carols and Readings and an Easter Praise and our Minister will lead our Bible Study in the New Year

We had a very enjoyable outing at the end of the summer and now look forward to our Christmas Fair and Coffee Mornings, and a Jumble Sale throughout the year. We are also hosting Meigle Musicality on Monday 27th April 2026 – a date for the diary!

Why don't you come and join us for Faith, Fellowship and Fun?

Stones are necessary in construction. Some are specially shaped to fulfil a distinct purpose, but each stone relies on the support and strength of those around it. We are His people, who are Christ's Church; the beating heart, the willing hands, the Living Stones. We are here to encourage others in a Living Faith, spreading His Light wherever we go and whatever we do; sharing His Love with others at every opportunity and by kindling hope wherever it is needed most.

'Whose we are and Whom we Serve'



Margaret Conroy, for the Guild Leadership Team.

Early Morning Services: Café Style

The Early morning services in September and October have been held café style with breakfast available for everyone.

September discussed the cost of following Jesus as told in the story Philemon, the shortest letter Paul wrote. Paul pleads for a servant to be released from slavery.

In the October service Paul reminded Timothy about looking after the faith inside him and to keep this treasure safe. The activities included making a paper box to keep treasure safe and the attending members were shown an 18th Century Bible box, a place to keep the treasured family Bible.

The next Early morning / café service will be on the 7th December and will look at Isaiah's prophecies of Jesus' coming. All are welcome to join this all-age service.

Susan Whiteford

Change of Roll Keeper and Reorganisation of Districts

The Session recently wrote to thank Jim Gibb for his fourteen years of diligent service as Roll Keeper. Jim has decided that it's time to hand it on to someone else, and Session's thanks go to Margaret Nicoll who has offered to take on the role. We wish Margaret every success – and not too many headaches.

At the same time, the districts have been re-organised and areas within the town reallocated to those willing to cover a district. There are now thirty districts covered by elders and other willing volunteers.

What does this mean?

For some of you, there will be little difference as you will still have the same visitor. For others, you will be receiving a visit for someone different who will introduce themselves in the coming week or two. So, please listen out for that ring on your doorbell.

Also, please assist us by letting us know of any change of address or if you know that one of your neighbours is a member but has moved or sadly died. The family doesn't always think to let us know at a time of stress such as that. The District Visitors will soon be getting details of who is in their new area. Bear with us as we use this opportunity to check that the details of who we have listed are checked for accuracy.

Clifford Cooke: Session Clerk

Dedication Service

On 31st August 2025 a very special service was held to remember and commemorate two of our much loved, much missed members.

Lex Dunlop was our organist and choirmaster for over 40 years and he also took on the role of unofficial church officer in that time, taking responsibility for opening and closing the church and setting the heating. Rev. Brian Dingwall remembered all Lex had done for the church before dedicating a plaque that is attached to the organ—a fitting place for it.



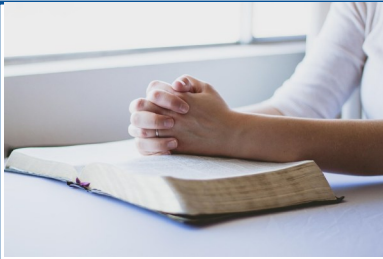
A small posy was given to Mrs Elspeth Dunlop to mark the day.



Yvonne Taylor was our flower convener for over twenty years. She not only 'did' the flowers beautifully all year around, but she also managed groups of volunteers for big events like Christmas, and she instigated the flower rota that continues to this day. Rev. Dingwall dedicated a rose bowl in Yvonne's memory. Her husband, Jimmy is holding it here alongside the stunning arrangement of orchids from his garden.

He explained Yvonne grew a great variety of orchids when they lived in Malaysia and these flowers are from plants brought with them when they returned.

Jimmy also informed us that—quite by co-incidence—the 31st August is Merdeka (Independence) Day for Malaysia so these flowers in our church prompted lovely memories for him of what he describes as 'that wonderful country' which is/was full of memories and where our children were born. '



Prayer @ Ten

On Sundays at 10am a group of us gather in the Meeting Room for prayer. This can be said in the silence of our hearts or spoken aloud briefly. Prayer is said for the Service at 11am, remembering also the needs of the Community and Parish. Of course we pray about these matters privately on our own but there are many instances in Scripture where people gather, or are summoned, to pray together. This often happened in times of national emergency when people felt overwhelmed by the forces ranged against them.

At the moment we remember especially the need for a new minister. The Nominating Committee has been delegated with this task and they do need all prayerful support. We earnestly pray with them for the appointment of God's choice to be our new minister. It is not only in this matter we seek God's guidance but in every aspect of our church's life and witness. Prayers are said for the Session, the Working Groups and those in need in our church and parish. Please think about joining the group at ten o'clock on Sundays if it is possible for you. *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."* **1 John 5.14**

Craft Group

We are back enjoying our Wednesday mornings of crafting, coffee and chat from 10.00 – 12.00 in the Choir room. By the time you read the newsletter, you will have seen some of the flower arrangements that we enjoyed making to contribute to the Harvest Thanksgiving decoration of the church.

We are planning to make some more poppies so that we can create a display in the church garden in time for Remembrance Sunday. If this is something you could help with, please speak to Dorothea who can provide more information.



We are still knitting for the families of prisoners at Perth and Elaine and her team are always appreciative of the items we take. The Crossreach Centre was due to close earlier this year but this has been deferred to March 2026 so we hope and pray that a good solution will be found before then.

If you would like to join in on Wednesday mornings, you will be made most welcome – just come along

or speak to Ruth Brand, Dorothea Cooke, Mary Mackay, Grace Saunders or Elinor Smith.

Contact **Dorothea 07840 737218 or Elinor 07753 174799**

The newly painted ironwork at the front of the church.

During the summer, our church ironwork received a good file and polish.

Members of the Community Payback Team from Perth & Kinross Council, led by Project Officer Audrey Moran, helped brighten up the entrance to our place of worship by sanding the railings, applying the undercoat and adding the final coat of black gloss.

One of the team cheerfully proclaimed, “Although it’s unpaid work, I’m learning new skills.” Another said he felt proud he was making a difference by helping the community, and that showing off his work to others gives him a sense of achievement. It will be here for a long time, he said. He listed some of the other jobs they do such as removing graffiti, clearing overgrown gardens, fixing fences and railings, tidying allotments, growing vegetables in a huge polytunnel and more recently building benches and placing them in the local cemetery here in Blairgowrie.

I’m sure you’ll agree, they have done a grand job and we thank them.

(Please note: the chap on the left wanted his face to be shown. The Project Officer was okay with him getting his photo taken if that was what he wanted. She said we did not need a permission slip. He has, however, provided written permission.)



Mary Mackay: 28 June 2025

Messy Church



Messy Church returned after the summer holidays and the theme was the story of David and Goliath. David’s father was a shepherd so the children decorated sheep cakes.

Goliath was nine feet tall and David managed to slay him with his sling and stones. The children made paper catapults which fired paper stones at a full-size picture of the giant. Here are some of the children standing next to Goliath. The children also made

a pouch that could hold their stones weaving a cord through the neck of the material.

A paper folding game helped the children remember the story.

In the short service after the activities the congregation sang “Be Bold Be Strong” and “Only a Boy named David”.

All are welcome to join the monthly Messy Church service. Please see the diary for dates and times, and do come along for some all age worship.

Susan Whiteford



The Finance and Stewardship Group

The financial position remains fairly constant at the moment with some £37,000 in the bank and circa. £180,000 in the Growth Fund in '121'. Whilst this, on the face of it, seems quite healthy let me remind you that the bulk of the money in our bank account strictly belongs to the proposed new audio/visual system.



Funding for this new system still remains our focus of attention and despite some extremely generous donations we still have a shortfall of £15,000 or thereby depending on final costs. Session is working hard to close this gap but it is likely we will still need to dip into reserves to see the project reach its conclusion.

As I mentioned, much of the cash we have at the moment is ring fenced for the A/V system. What that means as regards our day to day congregational income /expenses is that our income is not leaving anything extra for future expenditure outside our normal expenditure and as such would require funding via what we describe as our reserves i.e. the money in the Growth Fund.

At the risk of repeating myself, we have a diminishing congregation and that remains our main source of income. Our only other source is through hall letting which has swelled our income by £5,403 so far this year.

Bob Strachan, Treasurer and Convener

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday 12th October. It was led by Rev. Brian Dingwall with a contribution from Esther Dingwall and four 'willing' volunteers. The church was beautifully decorated with displays by Christine and baskets produced by the Craft Group.

All goods collected were to be donated to the Food Bank so we were advised in advance of the most appreciated items, which this year included nappies and toothpaste! It does feel a bit strange to have nappies and such on our harvest gift table; most of us remember the days when it would be covered in fruit, vegetables, sometimes chutneys and other preserves and bread. But Esther and Rev. Dingwall reminded us during the service that **everything** is God's harvest and **everything** is richness that He provides, so perhaps nappies and toothpaste belong there as much as bread and apples.



Sheila Watkins, who organised the distribution of the gifts, thanks everyone who donated goods and money. 139kg (just over 21.5 st.) of goods and £270 was raised; an amazing amount. She also thanks all who helped pack the goods ready for collection by Brian Campbell who delivered the money and goods to Perth and Kinross Foodbank in York Place Perth. Sheila says "I have had a call from the new manager at the Foodbank, she was delighted with all the goods and money donated. She tells me that they are very busy at the moment and that the wide variety of food and other goods was most welcome". Thank you to all who helped and donated.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; so thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all His love