

Prepare Him Room

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

If TV news networks had been invented in 1809, they would've covered one story: Napoleon sweeping across Austria like a wild-fire. Napoleon was the talk of the world, on the move from Trafalgar to Waterloo. Everything was about Napoleon.

Now, at the same time, babies were being born, but who cared? Someone should have! A whole group of world-changers took their first breaths in 1809. Let's take a trip back and see for ourselves.

- Our first stop: Liverpool, where Baby William is meeting the world. No one has a clue he's destined to become Great Britain's Prime Minister—not once, not twice, not three times, but four times. **William Gladstone**, 1809.
- Cross the Atlantic to Cambridge, and you'll hear the cry of another baby named Oliver. A prodigy, Oliver enters Harvard at 16, graduates before 20, gets his medical degree, practices medicine, and begins teaching at Dartmouth and Harvard. Today, his legacy includes a long list of still-respected books. **Oliver Wendell Holmes**, 1809.
- Back across the pond, journey to Shropshire, where a family welcomes their fifth child, a boy. Soon, they realize they have a young scientist on their hands. Before he dies, he's spread his theory of evolution around the world. **Charles Darwin**, 1809.
- Over in Lincolnshire, Baby Alfred takes his first breath. Before he's buried, he becomes the poet laureate of Ireland and Great Britain, still among the most admired and prolific poets. **Alfred Lord Tennyson**, 1809.
- We can't leave out a one-room log cabin in Kentucky, where Thomas and Nancy are thrilled to welcome their second child, whom they name after his grandfather. They can little imagine their baby will lead the nation through civil war. **Abraham Lincoln**, 1809.

All these men born in 1809 . . . but who cared? Few historical fans

Did you know?

From the church website you can access our:

- ⇒ weekly pastoral letter
- ⇒ monthly prayer diary
- ⇒ daily reflections
- ⇒ audio and video recordings of morning worship

New:

Our Facebook page is now live and holds details of upcoming events and general intimations.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/BlairgowrieParish>

Hall Lets

It is good to be able to report that the halls are in use again by our regular groups including Boys Brigade, the Guild, the Social Club and the Over 60s Exercise Group, as well as by individuals. The booking process with its new paperwork that includes current covid guidance is now pretty well developed. We are also

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Your District visitor is:

Contact details:

could name one of Napoleon's campaigns! What seemed super-significant proved, ultimately, no more exciting than a Sunday-afternoon siesta (Spanish for a nap). What seemed totally insignificant was, in fact, the genesis of an era.

Let's go back farther to the first century. Rome captivated the world. Bordered by the Atlantic, the Euphrates, the Danube and the Rhine, and the burning sands of the Sahara, the Roman Empire was vast and vicious. Political intrigue, racial tension, rampant immorality, and enormous military might occupy everyone's attention. All eyes were on Augustus—the Caesar who demanded a census.

No one cared about a couple making the 90-mile trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What could be more important than Caesar's decisions in Rome?

Yet, mighty Augustus had unintentionally become a mere duty boy for the fulfilment of Micah's prediction. While Rome was busy making history, God arrived. He pitched His fleshly tent on straw in a humble Bethlehem stable. Reeling from the wake of the Greats—Alexander, Herod, and Augustus—the world overlooked Jesus. It still does. Even many Christians do today.

Our times aren't altogether different than 1809 or even the first century. That list of Roman distractions sounds familiar, doesn't it? Political intrigue. Racial tension. Rampant immorality. Enormous military might. To enhance our tunnel vision, we DO have TV news networks. Most of us have mobile and smart phones that alert us to every new development in (and friend's opinion about) the "it" story. It's easy to get sucked into the fear and anxiety.

Don't misread me. The events flashing across our news channels matter. Some of them have deeply impacted you. Who can forget COVID and its effect still today? They are not trivial. But make no mistake—Satan, the enemy of our souls, wants to distract you from the message of Christmas. It's a message you and I need today as much as those who lived under the crushing weight of Rome's heavy boot.

So, here it is - **Immanuel—God with Us.**

My dear friends, Advent (Christmas) is about God's coming down to live in this weary world with us. The long-awaited Messiah finally letting out His first cry. The Saviour, the only Hope for a world that hates Him and wish to drown Him out. The conquering King of Kings, who is coming again to make wrong right once and for all. His day of Judgement is coming, be prepared and ready. But today, if you hear His voice, don't close your heart. Make room for Him, and let Him be your Saviour, your Lord and King.

As life rages around you, please pause. Feel the truth of God's drawing near to you. Let His Word drive out your fear and let His hope bind your heart. Fix your eyes on Him and receive your King and worship Him!

Wishing you and yours Season blessings in Christ,

Benjamin

Christmas Gift Table—5th December

The Sunday School will hold their Christmas Gift Table on Sunday 5th December. All gifts of toys, money or cheques (made out to Blairgowrie Parish Church) will go towards the 'Christmas Gift Bags for Children Scheme' which supports the most needy and vulnerable in our area.

We need toys and gifts for children from babies to 18 year olds. All money donated will go to buying for the older age group. If you would like to donate but will not be in Church on the 5th please contact Sheila Watkins on 01250 873505 or Joy Kearns on 01250 874902.

The Perth Foodbank is again supporting by sending any suitable toys or gifts donated at their collection points and Tesco Blairgowrie has already donated the gift bags. Gifts will be taken to the Children's Social Work Dept in Rattray where they will be packed and distributed. **Sheila Watkins**

The Guild

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer, worship, action and fellowship.

**LOOK
FORWARD
IN
FAITH**

'LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH'

We are delighted to say that at last, Blairgowrie Parish Church Guild has resumed meetings!

We began this session with our Dedication Service, held in the Church on Sunday 3rd October, under the theme 'The Extra Mile'. Many of our members attended and re-dedicated themselves to God and also to the Guild Movement. It was indeed a lovely service and the Leadership Team extend their sincere thanks to Benjamin for all his support and encouragement and for making the service so meaningful.

Our first meeting was held on Monday 4th October in the Church Hall. Almost 30 of our members attended and the Leadership Team introduced our new Projects under the Theme of 'Look Forward in Faith'. These Projects last three years.

2021-22 'Lights and Bushels'

2022-23 'Wee Seeds, Big Trees'

2023-24 'New Wine, New Wine Skins'

Our Project Partners are:

BEAT – 'Blether with Beat' – addressing issues around eating disorders'

HOME FOR GOOD – finding homes for vulnerable children; working on awareness training and foster care.

PIONEERS – Chocolate Heaven – supporting farmers in the development of Fair Trade chocolate manufacturing in an island in South East Asia.

STARCHILD – 'Finding the Light in every Child' - supporting children with additional needs and their families in Uganda.

UNIDA – (A Higher Educational Institution in Vitoria, Capital of the State of Espirito, Santo, Brazil) – 'Hear our Voice' – Training women for Ministry and Service in Brazil.

VINE TRUST – 'Kazuna', Village of Hope, Tanzania – Building and supporting a Village on the shores

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Knitted Goods

Despite Lockdown (perhaps I should say "Because of"), there has been a steady stream of contributions of lovely knitted knee rugs, baby clothes, toddlers' jumpers and hats. We now have three boxes to deliver to the Perth Prison Visitors' Centre. The centre is run by Crossreach, which one of our recent Moderators called "The Church of Scotland's hidden gem". As well as supporting the families of the prison inmates, Crossreach supports Care Homes, Grandparents of children whose parents are drug dependent, post natal depression, and depression following bereavement. Thus we know that if the Centre in Perth can't use the contents of our boxes, there are a few other worthy causes who will be delighted to receive them. As well as giving comfortable warmth to the recipients, there is the warmth derived from the thought that members of our congregation are caring for those less fortunate than them.

Please give me a ring if you have any knitting to donate, and I can collect it.

Moira Somerville - Tel. 01250 875240

Long Service Marked

The Church of Scotland provides certificates for elders who have served at least 30 years (and 10 yearly thereafter).

At morning worship on 21st November, we marked the long service of nine of our elders with the presentation of certificates—a combined total of 388 years between them—ranging from 62 to 30 years. If you add up the years served by all current elders, you get to just over 1000 years!



*This Certificate of Long Service
is presented by*
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
to

A Christmas Story

Mildred was a lady who liked to keep herself busy. Although she had retired from paid employment years ago, she had never really stopped working. She had become fairly well known in the small town where she lived with her husband Tom. He too was retired but he tended to confine himself to solitary pursuits like fishing or playing golf. Mildred on the other hand was happier when she was mixing with a range of different people. She was a tireless worker for her church and for a wide range of charities.

On the Monday before Christmas she was as busy as usual, working as part of a team putting on a special Festive Lunch for some of the senior members of the community - some of whom were younger than she was. She was busy serving up a delicious turkey dinner to their guests when she noticed that one of the ladies was at a table all on her own. Although Mildred recognised Barbara right away, she did not know her very well. Having completed her serving duties for the second course, she sat down facing Barbara and asked her if she had enjoyed her meal. Barbara admitted that she had, although she confessed that she had initially been reluctant to attend, as she had rarely been out since losing her beloved husband Roy five months previously.

Sensing that Barbara needed to talk to somebody, Mildred excused herself for a moment and went into the kitchen to tell Dorothy, who was in charge, that although it meant extra work for the rest of the team, it was important that she spent the remaining time keeping Barbara company.

A few minutes later Mildred was back at Barbara's table with a plate of turkey with all the trimmings. She explained that she could not have Barbara sitting having lunch all on her own. Barbara was very grateful and soon engaged Mildred in conversation, although she did most of the talking, while Mildred listened intently, speaking only when she needed to.

With lunch and the entertainment finished, Barbara thanked Mildred profusely for her company, saying that she felt much better having someone who was prepared to listen to her talking about how she felt after losing Roy. On the spur of the moment Mildred asked Barbara whom she would be spending Christmas dinner with. Barbara said that she would be on her own as her family were all living too far away or were too busy to spend Christmas day with her; but she would manage fine. Mildred immediately invited her to spend Christmas dinner with Tom and herself because they too would be on their own. It took a little persuading, but finally Barbara accepted her kind offer.

Although initially Tom was very sceptical about his wife's generosity, in the end he admitted that the Christmas dinner that the three of them shared together was one of the happiest festive meals he had participated in.

Ian McLachlan



Photo by Libby Penner on Unsplash

Thank You

We are very grateful for the practical help, good wishes and prayers from our Church family during Alex's recent, unexpected stay in Perth Royal Infirmary and Ninewells. Your support has been greatly appreciated. He is now home and recovering well.

Isaiah 43:1--4 has meant a great deal to us over the years or as CH4 192 expresses it -- "*Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine.*"

Martha and Alex Easton.

Treasurer's Thoughts

The good news is that we are in very slight profit. Thanks to advice from Susan Whiteford and confirmation from a Treasurer at the C of S, I have been able to reclaim VAT on some of the work done on our building through the Places of Worship Scheme (DCMS recovery of VAT). There has been a continuing welcome move from F.W.O. to Standing Orders which has more than covered the drop in Plate Giving this year. Gift Aid is up thanks to diligent work by the Gift Aid team. Susan Edwards has now taken over the role of Gift Aid Convenor as well as being the PAYE expert for our cleaner's salary. For some months, Susan shadowed Carol Barter. That brings me to the great debt of gratitude we owe to Carol Barter. Carol has been Gift Aid Convenor for over 12 years. She has moved from Blairgowrie to Glenfarg. David, our Board Clerk, has written on our behalf to Carol thanking her for her outstanding service. Gift Aid recovery brings in close to £20,000 a year. It may be that some of our generous regular donors are not "signed up" for Gift Aid. Susan and I are looking at that, so you may be approached if we feel that Gift Aid is appropriate, but we hold no declaration from you. We have had a very welcome £1000 from member held boxes into which they place from time-to-time, spare cash. Our new Hall Lets Convenor Colleen Joslin is hard at work. One exciting development is that NHS Tayside have requested the use of our Halls over several days in December (but not any of the Sundays). This is a chance for our Church to show its community involvement. At the time of writing, detail is still being negotiated including a need to request that some users are willing to have alternative accommodation. There is also an issue about the extra expense we will incur due to additional heating costs. Good ventilation is essential which of course means heat loss greater than normal. Turning to expenditure, the C of S centrally and Presbytery locally have required less from us. We are currently in negotiation over our expected contributions for next year. Surprisingly energy bills are reduced but that may reflect lock down which did not start till the

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2nd Blairgowrie Boys' Brigade

The Anchor and Junior Section Boys are currently meeting on a Friday evening from 6 to 7.30pm in the church hall. There are 7 Anchors and 11 Junior Boys enrolled for this session and we have 3 officers and 3 new helpers.

We are having combined and individual activities depending on the badge work and the theme of the night.

The Enrolment Service took place in the church in September. There were thank you gifts and long service medals awarded to Bruce Dow, Margaret Nicoll and Irene McIntosh who were all stepping down after many years of service. After a lovely and emotional service, photographs were taken outside.

Some of the activities the boys have been doing so far this session include opening worship every week, marching, games and a Fire Drill with Clifford (think we got a gold star!) *Ed. Note: They did!*

We were also planting bulbs, making paper planes and designing the team poster. For Hallowe'en we held a lantern competition, toasted marshmallows on the firepit (risk assessment done), caught the apple with a fork and guessed the number of sweets in the jar. Great fun was had by all.



We have lots of other exciting things planned for the next couple of months.

We are hoping at some point to start a Company Section, but we require more officers and helpers to do that, so if you know of any former boys or officers who are interested, please contact myself.

Carol Annand, Lieutenant.



Used Stamps

Thanks to all of you for sending me your used stamps. Over the year, I have collected 7 Kg of stamps, which are all boxed up and ready for the Courier to collect them. In true Blairgowrie fashion, the stamps have been donated by many members of our Community as well as our congregation. A large box was donated by a member of St Stephens, and the box in Booklore gets regular donations from customers. The World Mission project which is benefiting from the sale of the stamps for the past two years has been the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi. This centre aims to improve the women's socio-economic status and increase their future chances of employment.

There will be a new project announced soon, and so please continue to put your used stamps in my pigeonhole in the Lower Hall. Thank you! **Moir Somerville.**



Presbytery Update

The management structure of the Church of Scotland faces radical change in the next couple of years. The General Assembly of 2019 agreed a plan submitted by the Faith Nurture Forum to reduce the number of Presbyteries from 43 to around 12. The purpose of this plan is to reform Church governing structure and devolve resources to Presbyteries.

Our Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle will join with the current Presbyteries of Perth, Angus, Dundee, and Stirling to form one new Presbytery.

Representatives from each of the Presbyteries have been in discussion and a plan will be submitted to the General Assembly of May 2022. If approved, the new and considerably larger Presbytery will be established as soon as possible thereafter. We all hope that local groupings can be formed in order not to lose the considerable local knowledge and skills that we have enjoyed, and I think benefitted from, over the years.

Contained in the radical action plan is a directive that our Presbytery of Dunkeld and Meigle must reduce the number of Ministries from the present number of 11.5 to 6. In order to achieve this our present Presbytery is required to submit a Mission Plan for the future. This plan is at an early stage and will be submitted for consideration within the next 12 months. It will also contain a review of Church buildings to decide which are still required and which are fit for purpose.

All this is extremely challenging and will ultimately result in Church unions and linkages which could affect every congregation.

In the meantime, any congregations which have a vacancy will not be permitted to call a new minister until the Faith Nurture Plan is agreed.

Alisdair Drummond, Presbytery Elder

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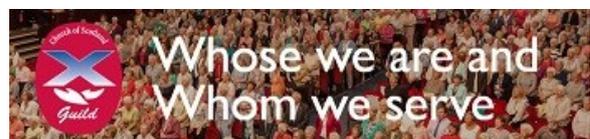
of Lake Tanzania.

Over the next three years the Guild will find ways to raise money to support these Projects. Our previous three year Projects raised £516,019.33.

Our second meeting was held in November and Mary Macdonald and Colleen Joslin led the meeting with discussion centred around COP26. Many suggestions were made as to how we can make a contribution to the effects of global warming on our planet.

We now look forward to our 'Christmas Meeting' on Monday 6th December at 2.00pm in the Church Hall.

We extend a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for Worship, Prayer, Action and Fellowship, remembering...



Margaret Conroy

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Spring of last year.

Repair and Maintenance is up but still bigger bills are in the offing, perhaps to the tune of over £60,000

Ministerial Assistance cost are down as we have no formal Ministerial Assistance. That is purely a financial bonus. Please be aware that this places an extra burden on Benjamin. We are fortunate that David Howat is so ready to step into any gaps left on Sundays when Benjamin is on holiday or unable for any other reason to lead us.

As most of you know I am no accounting expert, but I can always rely of wise advice and help from Allan McKay our past treasurer. My anxiety levels are increasing as the end of the year approaches and formal accounts are needed.

My takeaway message is that while this has been quite a good year, we will face headwinds next year as repair costs are met.

Please could we all keep our giving in mind and review?

Even more importantly, can we reach out to others to join our family of Faith at Blairgowrie Parish Church?

Alasdair Shaw

Just a Thought

I enjoy undertaking family research. Over the years I have discovered that many relatives left Ireland to come to Scotland and then many of their off-spring left Scotland to settle in U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand—to name just a few countries.

I watch programmes like “Long Lost Families” and am often saddened by the number of people who desperately long to find their ‘roots’ to ‘feel complete’. Amazingly, the researchers are often successful in finding the sought-after relative—and often find out more than the person hoped for.

As I reflect on the Advent season and God’s gift of His Son, I’m very conscious that, no matter our earthly family background, “... our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:20) Why?

John tells us that Jesus is “The Word” and that all who believe will be given the right to become “children of God”. As Christians we know where we belong. **Clifford Cooke**

Mary’s Meals

This inspirational organisation which started in Argyll and has now spread globally celebrated its twenty-first birthday recently with a reception at the Queen’s Hotel in Dundee where the CEO spoke and congratulated the volunteers in the area. He told specific stories about youngsters in underdeveloped countries whose lives had been turned around by the work of Mary’s Meals which ensures that if a child attends school, they will have a nutritious meal cooked on the premises. Research has proved that children progress academically if they are being properly fed. The talk was followed by coffee, cake & candy and crafts sale. This raised £850. Usually, the main fundraiser in Blairgowrie is a popular Ceilidh in January, but once again, it can’t happen because the Town Hall is presently occupied by the Vaccinations Team. If anybody would like to support this organisation, please phone Margaret Young who is in charge of the local fund raising group. Her number is 01250 875086.

Editor’s Note:

Give until 31 January 2022 and your donation will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6 million.

Moira Somerville



Bible Study Group

Led by Benjamin, we have just started an in-depth look at the Gospel of John. If you’d like to join us, please contact David Howat: david@thehowats.net

Sunday School restarts!

After a year and a half Sunday School was able to meet again after the October holiday it was so nice to have the children back although the numbers are low. We are delighted to welcome Hannah Humble who has joined as a young helper. Dates for December 12th Sunday School 19th Family Christmas service. We will begin again on 8th of January 2022.

Wishing everyone a Joyful Christmas and best wishes for 2022. **Beth and Isobel.**

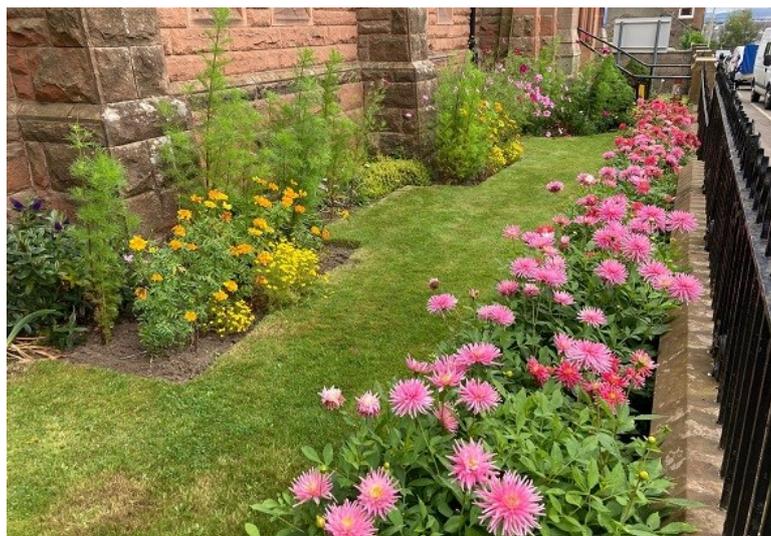
Property Update

Work is well under way with the roof repairs, this has involved the removal of the current roofing material and insulation. The boarding below appears to be in good condition which is good news. The replacement insulation under the roofing material is 4 times as thick and will help us reduce our heating costs. There is a slight delay on the delivery of the glass for the new session room windows, but the builders are using the time to remove the sun-pipes, filling in the holes and restoring the roof to its original state. This will stop the regular visits into the roof space to empty buckets which has carried on for 20 years. Thanks to everyone who has been involved with this. There will be other local repairs to seal the roof and stop the ingress of water. When this roof work is completed the replastering and decoration of the hall will begin.



The lights luminating the stained glass window will be replaced with LED units brighter but reduced power consumption.

There has been a delay in the installation of the emergency lighting in the sanctuary but we have been promised this will start in the new year. When the scaffolding is erected in the sanctuary the floodlights are also being replaced with LED lamps and repositioned to give more light in certain areas.



A new water heater has been installed in the kitchen, the old one was becoming temperamental and needed replacing. Unfortunately the dishwasher is showing similar signs.

Thank you to the team who have maintained the grounds through the summer, they have looked and have received favourable comments from passers-by. Messy Church children have planted some wild flower seeds in the grass at the rear, we hope to have good display.

Daffodil bulbs have been planted in the beds at the front so check them out in the spring.

Messy Church & Family Services

Messy church was able to meet again on site from the end of August with the activities taking place outside and the worship inside. The theme was "Our World" with August looking at our oceans and September the world around us. For that, the children made potato printing pictures and were delighted to be making things they could eat, including animals they made with a pancake base. They also made some lovely ladybird pictures.



Susan Whiteford

“Faith for Life” by Richard Coekin

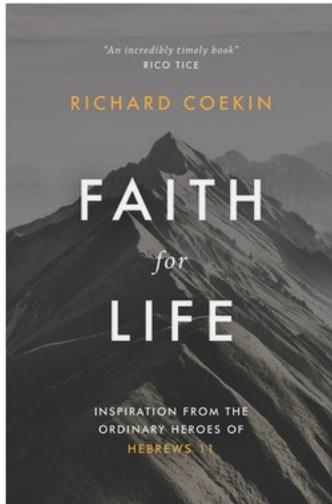
Here is an enjoyable and encouraging book to read.

The author uses Hebrews 11 to explain the nature of faith. As the lives of the ancients and patriarchs are explored it is seen how they were ordinary men and women who had their shortcomings. Yet what was special about them was their unique relationship with God. This connection they had with the Father empowered them with trust and confidence. In this long line of people who lived ‘by faith’ came our Saviour Jesus whose close walk with the Father led him to the cross and his saving act for mankind.

Throughout the book the author brings history up to date as mention is made of many Christians who today live out their lives by faith. How humbling it is to read of all these people who face so much hardship and opposition yet by the grace of God win through.

You are most welcome to borrow the book from me if you would like to read it or it can be obtained from Our Daily Bread Ministries.

Marjorie Ferguson (Tel. 01250 874 114)



Hall Lets *(Continued from page 1)*

expecting the lock to be changed to a passcode lock shortly and all listed key holders will be notified when it happens, so please contact me if you have valid cause to be added to the keyholder register. The register is maintained for insurance and safeguarding purposes. Thank you.

Meanwhile we have been asked to make the Halls and Meeting Room available to the Tayside Covid Vaccination Team for 14 days in the period from the end of November through to Christmas and this has been agreed. The halls will not be available during the vaccination periods so this will have some impact on regular users, and we are grateful to St Catharine’s Church for its sup-

ADVENT SERVICES

BLAIRGOWRIE PARISH CHURCH
ALL WELCOME



Carol Service with Readings

Thursday 16 December, 7pm

Christingle

All Age Family Service
Christmas Eve,
24 December, 6.30pm

Christmas Day Family Service

25 December, 10.30am

Sunday Worship

26 December, 11.00 am



Levi & Ruth Update

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, warm greetings to you all from Mzuzu, Malawi. We are all fine here regardless of the Covid 19 pandemic which is still serious in some towns.

I am writing to officially inform you that the Malawi government has appointed me as the new ambassador to Brazil, South America. If all logistics can be overcome, I am supposed to go in January 2022 with my wife Ruth. This means that the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia shall have to second me to go and work in Brazil and appoint another principal of Ekwendeni Campus, University of Livingstonia.

However, my daughter who is the headmistress and administrator at Kileni Private School shall continue looking after the Kileni women craft team and the distribution of all materials that we get from you friends through the banana box container or containers from PCI. All the work of distribution to the needy shall be in her hands.

Her email: kilenischools@yahoo.com

All boxes sent to me/us should still be sent to:

Rev. Dr. Levi and Ruth Nyondo, Jamieson House, Kileni Schools, Box 1101, Mzuzu, Malawi.

Any change will be communicated to you for your prayers. Stay well and safe always. Yours,

Rev. Dr. Levi and Ruth Nyondo.

port at this time in making its accommodation available to our groups to minimise disruption. The situation has been discussed with all group leaders and most will be able to continue while we offer this important service to our community.

Colleen Joslin

Email: colleenajoslin@gmail.com

Telephone: 01250 873701

You are invited...

A number of people have moved into the area and come along to our Church in recent times. Due to the pandemic, there have been fewer opportunities for people to socialize and get to know each other in our Church and the wider community.



Photo by Jess Bailey on Unsplash

We propose to trial an informal, weekly, drop-in group that would provide an opportunity for people to meet for coffee, chat and crafts such as knitting or sewing.

The group would be open to men and women of all ages. Church members, people from other churches and people from the wider community would all be very welcome to come along.

The format would be flexible:

- Refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits) would be served
- People could bring their own crafts to work on e.g., knitting, sewing, crochet etc.
- People could be encouraged to do knitting for Crossreach and the prison service.
- Some craft kits could be provided
- People would be welcome just to pop in for a cuppa and chat
- See how group develops and check out what participants would find enjoyable and helpful

Initially, it is proposed to have a weekly drop-in from 2.00 – 4.00pm on either a Wednesday or a Thursday depending on hall availability, starting in January 2022.

Once the Kirk Session has had an opportunity to discuss this, we will firm up our proposals and let people know. In the meantime, you are welcome to talk to **Dorothea Cooke, Morag Redwood or Elinor Smith.**

Suggestions please...

Give us your ideas for a name for this craft and support group!



Let Elinor have your suggestions.

It's not big and it's not difficult...

Intrigued? Excellent.

Now that things are starting to feel a bit more like they did in 2019 than 2020, more and more of our groups are up and running which we are hugely grateful for. Some of our groups deal specifically with children and/ or vulnerable adults. These include Creche, Jump for Joy, Sunday School, Messy Church, Boys Brigade, Early Service and Pastoral Visiting.

The topic here is safeguarding. We have a responsibility to keep everyone safe so if you have, or want to start, helping with any of these groups, there are a few administrative hoops to jump through but fear not they are not difficult and we are here to help.

We have arranged Safeguarding training sessions in January and February. You need only attend one evening session. The full "Introduction to Safeguarding" session is for all those new to the role or who's last training took place more than 5 years ago. The refresher training is for those who were last trained 3-5 years ago. In future, refresher training will need to be undertaken every 3 years.

For those already on our register, you will be contacted by the team leader for the group that you work with to arrange your training. If you are not currently part of a group but wish to be, please approach the team leader of the group in the first instance or **Lynne on 01250872929 or Louisa on 07792249960.**

Training will be held in the church hall at 7:30pm on the following dates:-

Monday 10th January - Introduction to Safeguarding

Tuesday 18th January – Refresher

Tuesday 1st February – Introduction to Safeguarding.

Did You Know?

The Church's Safeguarding Service also provides support to the Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Brigade and the United Reformed Church (URC).

There are over 80 volunteer trainers in the Church of Scotland.

There are over 1,400 congregational Safeguarding Coordinators.