

CASTLE DOUGLAS PARISH CHURCH

SC011037

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019



*Alleluia, Christ is
Risen!*

Happy Easter!

WHO TO CONTACT

MINISTER REV ALISON BURNSIDE	01556505983
ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER REV OONAGH DEE	01556620001
SESSION CLERK AILEEN STODDART (aileen3112@hotmail.com)	01556502677
FABRIC CONVENER RICHARD BROWN	07759622152
TREASURER FIONA MCGREGOR	01556502609
ORGANIST CALLUM WYLIE (callum.wylie@hotmail.co.uk)	07733386686
CHURCH OFFICER PETER FRENCH	01556503556
CARETAKER RENA REID	01556503226
NEWSLETTER ANN BROWN (anndouglasbrown@aol.com)	01556504881
WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR IAIN MCDONALD (news@castledouglasparish.org.uk)	01556504711

Intimations to be with Aileen Stoddart by Thursday each week at the latest please.

We are grateful to **Small Print** for the production of this newsletter. Their help is invaluable.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14TH APRIL 2019	Palm Sunday Service 11 am. Wear a decorated Easter Bonnet if you would like to!
17th APRIL 2019	Passion Service – Kelton Church 7pm – with joint choirs of Castle Douglas and Bengairn Parishes
18th April 2019	Maundy Thursday Communion 7pm Remembering the Last Supper.
19th April 2019	Good Friday Service 12 noon 7pm Tenebrae Service – Kelton Church
21st April 2019	Ecumenical Dawn Service 5.45 am Lochside Park at the side of the loch. Easter Sunday Service 11am followed by Pot Luck Lunch

**SERVICES IN CASTLE DOUGLAS PARISH CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYE ON LOCAL PRESS, THE WEBSITE AND NOTICEBOARD FOR
OTHER EVENTS.**

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

A gentleman in his 70's moved to Castle Douglas last year. He did a lot of voluntary work in his previous community but now finds himself in need of a volunteer. Following a stroke he is unable to type anymore and has issues with emailing. He is looking for someone to volunteer an hour per week to help him with his emails and letters.

He thought from the occasions he has been to the Church, someone here would be interested. If you are able to volunteer please speak to the Rev Alison.

THE VINE TRUST

Maureen Rooney will be heading off on another project with The Vine Trust in October this year.

This new venture is building a sustainable village with homes for orphaned children, a school, a market garden and a health clinic.

It will be a huge challenge but Maureen is very excited about her forthcoming trip. The work is very close to Maureen's heart and she is very grateful for the support, love, kindness and generosity shown to her from her family and friends and the Church.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends – and this time I know you really are ‘dear’ friends,

As I write this I cannot believe that I have been here less than 6 months. I feel so much a part of things that I feel as though I have been here much longer. And I mean that in a good way. No, I do not know all of your names, sometimes I might accidentally walk by you in the street because I don’t recognise you out of your Sunday best. But I have been overwhelmed by the number of you who make a point of stopping me and talking to me.

Sometimes when ministers move to a new Parish they see areas of need or come with pre-packaged ideas and get so carried away with their own enthusiasm that the congregation are dragged – sometimes gaining enthusiasm, sometimes quite reluctantly, sometimes even kicking and screaming, worse still there can be mutiny! However, for the first time in my ministry I feel as though I am running to catch up with the congregation. There is so much enthusiasm among you, so many ideas, so much commitment – a minister’s dream. Amn’t I a lucky Rev!

There is no doubting the disciples’ enthusiasm on Palm Sunday – adrenalin was running high. They strode on, set in their purpose, all they had been working towards was being fulfilled. They had given up everything because they knew, not just believed, but knew that Jesus was the Son of God. And now, after the years of hardship, wandering, sometimes being welcomed, sometimes being chased the crowds knew. The cheers. The chanting: Hosanna! Hosanna! The palm leaves – they couldn’t have believed it, a palm leaf carpet! They were treating him like a King! Actually, they felt pretty royal too. Nod here, wave there, shake a hand.

Then came Good Friday – Black Saturday – it was, well and truly was, over. The disciples scurried away, enthusiasm? Well, only for their own survival, only to hide and keep themselves safe.

Of course, as they were to discover, it wasn’t all over. The enthusiasm returned. The Good News was spread. But there had been a moment when they thought “No”; no couldn’t do it – stay safe; no, too difficult – don’t want to be crucified!

I hope you will continue to infect me with your enthusiasm, that when we hit stumbling blocks and problems you will forge on. Jesus will always be saying say: “I have big plans to make this church the best it can be. You are working miracles here. Trust me. I rose to be with you.”

Yours in Christ

Alison

ELDERS GROUPS

The elders have been working in groups towards some of the most important matters to be considered in our Church. There will be a report of what they are doing in each newsletter going forward.

Finance/Fabric Team

The main item being considered by this team is the proposed upgrading of the Church kitchen, toilet, vestry and session room area. Plans are being drawn up and estimates are being sought for the work. Part of the plan is to make a Church office area in the Session room. To date, work has begun on this with the installation of a telephone line and broadband.

With the increased use of the downstairs rooms in the Hall, it has been decided to turn one of the store rooms into a toilet.

Work is being done in the balcony of the Church to repair/renew the cushions on the pews.

Social/Fundraising Team

The team are working together to come up with ideas to raise funds to allow the Church to continue to provide for the community now and in the future, as well as providing opportunities to get together and have a good time, building friendship and important social interaction.

There was an Easter Bunny Drive on 12th March in the Hall which was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

There are plans to start a regular Car Boot Sale later in the year, and there will be another Summer Fair too.

There is a craft afternoon every Tuesday downstairs in the Trinity Room in the hall. Everybody (men too) welcome for a cuppa and a chat and you can bring an unfinished project with you or just come along and we will find something for you to try.

Ideas for events are welcome, Louise Clark is our convenor and would be glad to hear from you!

Care for the Congregation and Wider Community

This Committee will be looking at community needs. There is being addressed a Men's Breakfast Club to start meeting in the autumn, possibly a pastoral care team and, once the Session room is upgraded, a Baby and Toddlers Group. These can only work with sufficient helpers so if **you** are interested in helping or identify areas

where the committee could be involved in any way please speak to the minister or the committee convenor, Iain McDonald.

World Mission and National Concern Team

We have received a note of thanks for the £400 donation to the Church of Scotland's HIV Appeal which was raised at our enjoyable Sunday Soup Lunch last month. Thanks to all who took part.

At the end of March we are hosting the Presbytery's World Mission Conference in our Hall which is open to any member of the Congregation.

We are also in the process of reviewing and re-committing to our partnership with the Fairtrade Organisation whereby a number of years ago we became a Fairtrade Church using appropriate products in our Church activities. In addition we are considering participating in the 90kg. Rice Challenge which helps pay for the education of children in Malawi from our commitment to sell 90 bags of rice for £3 each within our congregation. More information will follow during Christian Aid week which runs from 12th – 18th May.



2019 Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'



Photo credit: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

Tenneh and baby Ansumana receive care from nurse Judith at the community clinic.

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Tenneh's story

Tenneh plays with her precious baby Ansumana, lifting her baby up high she beams with joy. Tenneh gave birth to Ansumana three months ago. Thankfully, he's a happy, bouncy baby. But Tenneh has lost and loved another baby before.

When Tenneh's labour started during her first pregnancy, there was no health centre in the village. Her mum took her to a traditional birth attendant. For the two days of her labour, Tenneh was in agony. She fell unconscious and was bleeding heavily.

With very little medical training, the birth attendant was way out of her depth.

In the days and months after her labour, Tenneh felt very weak and her baby wouldn't breastfeed. Tragically, her baby died when he was three months old.

New hope

Through our partner RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency), Christian Aid saw how difficult the situation in Sawula village was and began working to ensure that mums and babies have fullness of life.

RADA has been working locally to help vulnerable women access healthcare, improve hygiene with simple interventions like handwashing and, with your support, build a bigger, better health care centre.

Thankfully, when Tenneh was pregnant a second time, things had changed for good.

This time, she had nurse Judith by her side. With her expert love and care, Judith helped Tenneh deliver her baby safely.

Tenneh said: 'During my second labour, I was scared. But nurse Judith was with me, assuring me of everything. When I delivered, I felt so good.'

'With the coming of Judith, so many lives have changed,' Tenneh continued. 'We know that with Judith, as long as we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we'll be OK.'

Thanks to nurse Judith and the medical training you helped provide, Tenneh could hold her beautiful baby boy in her arms.

A health centre for all

The community in Sawula dream of having a health centre that can meet their needs. The current health centre is the size of a small bedroom. Operations, deliveries and baby checkups all happen in one single room with only two delivery beds.

Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of mums and young children who come to the clinic. But the need is great, and sometimes she's forced to send people away.

When women come to the clinic at night, there's no light for Judith to use. So she has to ask her patients to bring a torch to see by.

In addition to this, there are often not enough drugs at the clinic. Judith sees diseases like malaria and typhoid, especially in children. She has to go on a motorbike or sometimes walk for three hours to collect drugs.

'I need help,' nurse Judith says. 'Women are dying from childbirth, children under five are dying, because of poverty. Please help us.'

For Tenneh, and many mums like her, a new health centre would be like a dream come true:

'We'll dance for three days when we have the new health centre,' she says.

With your support today, we could work alongside Judith's community to build a bigger, better health centre to help more mums like Tenneh give birth safely.

Christian Aid Week brings Christians together with a common purpose to achieve something incredible.

A gift of £300 could provide a delivery bed for a new health centre giving mums a safe place to deliver their babies. We need your support now, more than ever.

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

Stand with mums

This Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, our local churches will be holding Soup and Sweet lunches in Castle Douglas Church Hall on Fri 17th and Sat 18th May with sales tables for books, bric-a-brac, plants and home produce.

Keep us in mind this spring as you sort your unwanted books and bric-a-brac and look forward to getting the greenhouse planted!!

If you can help in ANY way, no matter how small, it will make a real difference to many.

Lorna McDonald
Sec CD and Area CA group

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

In February we were delighted to begin a new partnership working with Dumfries and Galloway Citizen's Advice Service. They are now based our halls for their work in The Castle Douglas area. The DGCAS worker and volunteers are in the halls:
Tuesday - 9.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m.
Wednesday – 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Friday – 9.00 a.m – 4.00 p.m.

STAMP APPEAL

Many thanks to all who participate in the Stamp Appeal. Could you please ensure that no damaged stamps are included and you leave a good margin around the stamp. There is a collection box on the windowsill in the vestibule or alternatively see Jim Murdoch.

FOOD BANK

There is a collection basket in the vestibule each week for any donations you may want to make for the Food Bank.

THE KNITTING TREE

Although the knitting tree is part of the Christmas Festival, the work continues all year long. 18 kgs. of knitting has been sent recently and details of where they go are included in the leaflet which is available in the Church or by contacting Isobel Prowse or Jim Figgis. There are knitting patterns in the leaflet too for hats, fingerless mitts and blankets.

Why not come along to our craft afternoons on Tuesday if you are an experienced knitter or if you would like to learn how to knit, there will be plenty of willing teachers!



Some of the items sent from The Knitting Tree and Young Women's Group Fun!

YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUP

The Young Women's Group meetings started this year on 8th January 2019 with a talk from Maureen about her trip with the Vine trust and the work done by them. Maureen provided a presentation and a very interesting talk about the buildings the group worked on and the people she met.

Our regular quiz was held on 5th February 2019. The weather was terrible but we still had a good turnout. The quiz was set by Aileen Stoddart with a set of questions being asked before supper was served. The quiz continued with the final set of questions before the winners were announced. The sum of £300.03 was raised. For our meeting on 5th March 2019 we had a visit from Kay from the TSB bank at Ruthwell.

It was a very interesting meeting learning about Mr Henry Duncan and "his penny bank".

Kay has asked us to go along to Ruthwell some time to see the bank, this is to be considered for a future meeting.

Our next meeting will be 26th March when Douglas Kerr will be giving a talk on his quest to reach the highest point on each inhabited island in Scotland. Please come along.

We welcome new people to come along and join us.

TREASURER'S REPORT – FINANCE 2018

We all know the most important thing that happened in 2018 was the arrival and induction in September of our new Minister – The Rev Alison Burnside together with her family. She is a great gift to us all, greater than money, which nonetheless it is still necessary to talk about because of our congregations continued great giving and hard work so –

DONATIONS

2018

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| A) Gift Aid and tax | £40534 up by £3679 on 2017 |
| tax includes £4310 (Paid Feb 2019) | |
| B) Legacy | £10000 down by £10221 on 2017 |
| C) Donations, Fundraising, Use of premises, Offerings | £32365 up by £5937 on 2017 |
| D) From Bengairn Parishes | £ 9200 up by £3175 on 2017 |
| E) Solar Panels | £ 5530 up by £593 on 2017 |

To date – 19/02/2018 – have received £36197 since the panels were put up and we received our first payment on 11/10/2012 . The congregation donated £33000 which has now been repaid and we are likely to receive our final payment in May 2020.

The total we received this year was £94014 and the amount we paid was £93116 – we thus received £898 more than we paid.

So now-

PAYMENTS

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----------------------|
| A) Ministry | £48637 | down by £1787 on 2017 |
| B) Maintenance – Church, Hall
Manse | £17318 | up by £2677 on 2017 |

Other payments amounted to £26469 and covered such as Donations to Charity, Council Tax, Events, Staffing, Insurance etc... All as expected, an increase on 2017 of £4053.

2018 was financially better than we thought it was going to be thanks to your wonderful generosity and the marvellous hard work of so many people.

We will keep you informed as soon as we have costings for 2019.

Thank you all very much again.

Fiona McGregor, Treasurer.

CHURCH CHOIR

If you would like to come along and sing with the choir please speak to Callum Wylie or come along on a Friday evening at 5.45 pm. You don't need to read music and you will be made most welcome. It is very enjoyable and singing has proven health benefits!

GARY BROUGH – OUR MISSION PARTNER IN MALAWI

Gary is our Mission Partner and has moved to Malawi with his family Jacqueline, Eilidh and Morven.

They are settling in well with daughter Eilidh enjoying school and the house and garden while young sister Morven is meeting new folk in the local market from her baby carrier.

Jacqueline, Gary's wife, was a pensions consultant in Glasgow so will be finding quite a change in her life.

You can follow the family on www.broughsinmalawi.com.

There will also be regular updates in the Church where you will be able to read letters from the family.

JIM FIGGIS WRITES -

THE BEST things in life seem to come in twos. Adam and Eve, Elijah and Elisha, James and John, Paul and Silas. Jesus sent them "two and two before His face into every city" (Luke 10.1). Two world wars (at huge cost) to convince the world that might of arms alone could not be the foundation of an empire.

In the Old Testament, which Jesus quoted, and was nearly murdered for doing it, (Luke 4.25-29), Elijah and Elisha are two prominent figures. Their names are similar, and it is easy to forget that they were two people, whose lives overlapped. Elisha saw Elijah being taken up into heaven in a whirlwind. He asked Elijah, before this happened, to give him a double portion of his spirit. "Thou hast asked a hard thing," replied the elder of the two. 2 Kings 2.9.

On a visit a few years ago to hear a well-known evangelist speaking in Birmingham, England, the whole of the audience, about 7000 people, were asked by him to pass, two by two, on either side of where he was standing, so that he could lay hands on each person as they passed. I was immediately behind a young woman, and I sensed her apprehensiveness as our turn arrived to be touched. All at once, she jumped aside, into the arms of an usher who was standing by, without receiving the touch of the evangelist. Mindful of Elisha's request for "a double portion", I grasped the arm of the evangelist as he laid his hand on my head. I wanted that double portion, and I believe I got it.

At about that time I was being invited to go to Malawi on a few occasions, and on one of them, on a ministry tour of bush-villages in the south of that country with a seasoned group of pastors, I remember one night in particular. It was a warm night, and a creature landed on the bare shoulder of the man next to me. He brushed off the creature, which was a scorpion, and crushed it with his shoe. (Luke 10.19.) When I had finished preaching, through an interpreter, a line of people formed, asking to be prayed for, and to be healed of their diseases and various afflictions. A lady came with a sleeping baby in her arms, asking me to pray for him. I realised at once that the baby was stone-cold, and his limbs were lifeless. There was no sign of breathing in him either. My immediate reaction was that she might blame me for killing the child, but my faith stood firm, and I prayed, with the interpreter, that God would heal the child. I felt his chest gently, lightly giving pressure up and down. I could not feel a pulse, or detect breathing. As I did this, the interpreter began to notice that his diaphragm was rising and falling. The lady took back her child, and thanked us. On reading the Bible I found that both Elijah and Elisha were used by God to revive a dead child; 1 Kings 17.21 and 2 Kings 4.35. It takes two separate events to teach a Bible message. The testimony of one mother was, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth." 1 Kings 17.24. "And as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10.7-8.

also -

When a butterfly emerges from a pupa (dormant state), sometimes after a long winter, it spreads its beautiful wings, stretches out its six new legs, and waves its two new antennae. This a similitude of when God's kingdom comes on earth, as it is in heaven. His church will no longer creep along the leaves of trees, but will have the full freedom of the sky.

Nature has acted differently this year, 2018, from other years. In UK and in most of Europe there has been heat and drought for nearly two months. Crops have withered, and grass has turned brown. Then, the rain came, and the grass turned green again. Apples and blackberries, which normally ripen later, unaffected by heat and drought, were ready for picking in August. We have seen the early and the latter rain. The church is beginning to wake up. Old churches are dying, new ones are taking their place. On the other side, wickedness proliferates. More and more scandals engulf the nations, that were once the bringers of Christianity to a waiting world. Can Jesus' return on earth be much longer delayed?

My camera needs new batteries. It would not work yesterday, but it works today. The batteries have recovered their strength.

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up with wings like eagles." JF



Holy Week

KIDS CLUB



What type of leaves are the onlookers waving?

Why not colour in the picture and hand it in to the Church for us to put on the notice board? Remember to put your name on it.

What type of bun is eaten at Easter time?



Easter Word Hunt

C H I C K L I L Y D H
N C J N E G G S L Y R
F G H E F W V U Z E R
B R I S P R I N G F A
U A D T A L C D R L B
N S E A R C H A W O B
N S W P A L M Y Q W I
Y F I N D B A S K E T
L A M B E A S T E R S
D H U N T U L I P S I

BASKET
BUNNY
CHICK
DYE
EASTER
EGGS
FIND

FLOWERS
GRASS
HIDE
HUNT
LAMB
LILY
NEST

PALM
PARADE
RABBIT
SEARCH
SPRING
SUNDAY
TULIPS

©1997-1998 The Kid's Domain www.kidsdomain.com
free for non-profit use

Sunday School and Bible Quest are on Sunday Mornings at 11am. Come and give it a try!

