

CASTLE DOUGLAS PARISH CHURCH

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2018



WHO TO CONTACT

INTERIM MODERATOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW	01644430380
LOCUM MINISTERS DR JOHN LOCHRIE REV OONAGH DEE	07791909750 01556620001
SESSION CLERK AILEEN STODDART	01556502677 aileen3112@hotmail.com
FABRIC CONVENER RICHARD BROWN	07759622152
TREASURER FIONA MCGREGOR	01556502609
ORGANIST CALLUM WYLIE	07733386686 callum.wylie@hotmail.co.uk
CHURCH OFFICER PETER FRENCH	01556503556
CARETAKER RENA REID	01556503226
NEWSLETTER ANN BROWN	01556504881 anndouglasbrown@aol.com
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.

Castle Douglas Parish Church **SC011037**

A Word From David Bartholemew

Dear Friends,

The image we project to the world can be very important to many of us. We want to keep up appearances and give the impression that all is fine, that we are managing fine, even if at times beneath the surface of our lives there is a quiet despair and emptiness. But there is more to life than keeping up appearances, and sometimes we forget that God sees everything beneath the surface of our lives, he sees into our hearts and we can never pull the wool over his eyes. And that need not be a threatening thing but a liberating thing, if we recognise that God is a loving Father who wants the best for us. As we open our hearts towards him he can help resolve some of the tensions within our lives and bring a new healing and wholeness to us. God is looking for genuine people who admit their needs and brokenness and allow him to be part of the answer to their needs. It saddens him when people put a mask on and try and project a good image, while under the surface they are very different – especially when they put unrealistic demands on others.

Jesus had particularly harsh words for the religious leaders, the Pharisees, whom he saw as heaping unrealistic demands upon the people. You will find some of his harshest words in Matthew 23. Their trouble was that they were trying to make themselves acceptable to God by following God's laws - and many other man-made laws that they added on to the list. And in the process they had lost touch with the God of love and grace who was behind the laws. He called them hypocrites, because they were good at putting up a good front while actually their lives were riddled with pride and self-righteousness. They had forgotten that God looks on the heart.

God is not just in the business of tinkering around on the surface of our lives, helping us out of difficulties that we find ourselves in. He wants to change our hearts. His words to us in the Bible can do a lot to change us as we allow them to come alive inside us. In Proverbs 4.20 God says to us, 'Listen to my words. Never let them get away from you. Remember them and keep them in your heart. They will give life and health to anyone who understands them. Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.' If we allow negative thoughts to rule in our lives they will knock us down and lead us to despair.

But God has thrown us a life-line, and it doesn't just come to us in the form of words to us – but even more so in his living Word to us, Jesus Christ. The Word that became flesh amongst us, and brought the life of God to us in word and deed. The Word that still comes to us to take up residence in our hearts and change us from within. Paul's letter to the Ephesians has much to say on this. This is much more than seeing Christ as an example, someone we should aspire to copy and follow. It talks about the very life of Christ being birthed within us, receiving something of God within our very beings as his Spirit comes to take up residence in our hearts and lives. Christ seeks to transform us more and more into his image, making his strength

available to us to nourish us on life's journey. That is the way to victory and inner peace. God wants to give us a new heart and channel his love into our lives and through our lives to others. We will then find the old insecurities disappearing and no longer feel the need to hide behind any masks.

You will soon be welcoming Alison Burnside as your new minister. It has been good to share your journey over the past couple of years. May you take Alison and her family into your hearts and allow God to open up to you the next stage of your journey as a church family.

With all good wishes,

David Bartholomew.

A Message From Oonagh Dee

Dear One and All,

Here we are on the brink of a new era; a new Minister coming in September. What a blessing for all of us although in my view we have managed extremely well in the vacancy; with everyone pulling together. Certainly those among us who have been ill or in distress have talked of the level of care and love they have received from a unified congregation.

Underpinning this is the fact that the many jobs of running the Church and the Parish have been done with good grace and good will. People talk of happy and really good fun times; there have certainly been many entertaining events! And of course, as an added bonus, they have raised a good deal of money for the projects we hold dear.

On the whole a vacancy with challenges but no catastrophes; difficulties but no disasters.

Our Session Clerk, our Locum, our Interim Moderator, and in fact--all --the office bearers not to mention Callum and Sze Ying and Hugh have managed to keep us on the right track and in a positive frame of mind; aware of God's goodness and many blessings to us.

So, what lies ahead? Well Alison is to be inducted in September. She will have, as part of our Presbytery remit and at her request; an OLM as she settles in to this large linked charge.

That means I have the opportunity to be with you all still, but in a more informal and reduced capacity; and it could not come at a better time for me. We are to become Grand-parents again (after 24 years!) at the end of August and we'd like to spend a lot of time with the new addition!

So, holding in our hearts the ones who are no longer with us, and extending welcome in our hearts to the ones who have not joined us yet; we go as God's people in this place; into tomorrow singing as we did last month! "Put your hand in the hand of the One who stilled the water".

Every good wish. Yours, Oonagh.

A Message From John & Charlotte Lochrie

Dear Friends

Our time with you is coming to an end. It is hard to realise that we have been with you for two years. However, this is a time to be looking forward, not back. On the 20th of September you will embark on a new journey with Alison Burnside. I am sure that she will have ideas of where she would wish to take you in the coming months. Never forget that you are entering into a new partnership, so even if things change try to be prepared to embrace it, not fear it as so often we do. We have to remember that like any body the church should always be seeking to grow, and growth inevitably involves some measure of change. After all is this life nothing ever remains the same for long. We wish you well and look forward to hearing of the great things being done in Castle Douglas Parish.

John and Charlotte Lochrie

There will be an 800th Anniversary Commemoration Service at Tongland Abbey on September 9th at 3pm.

THE KNITTING TREE

This has been a part of the Christmas Tree festival in our church for the last three years (but continues all year long!)

Donations of knitting, the latest parcels weighing over 18 kilos in total, are sent to Missionary Partners of Jim Figgis, a member of our congregation. We are very grateful to the Treasurer for covering or subsidising the postage!

*Jim's friends in Cape Town prepare Christmas parcels for international seamen and ask for large "manly" hats.

*His friends in the Karoo Desert can distribute hats of all sizes, mittens, baby hats, crochet or knitted blankets, 30 x 30" (DK wool, 9 squares of 50 stitches, 10"x10")

*The boys in Pastor Dimba's boarding school in Malawi value their hats as one of their few personal and unique possessions. He has also rescued abandoned babies and would welcome baby clothes. Reports are, however, coming from Jim's African friends, that unskilled use of 'Fish and chip' tops is causing dislocated shoulders in babies. I should prefer not to send any more of these tops to that part of Africa, but if you still want to knit them, I would hope to be able to suggest other destinations.

Other items donated to "the tree" have been forwarded to a hospital in Sri Lanka, where a local nurse has been on a placement.

A small book of knitting patterns is also available in church. Thank you very much.

Further information is available from Jim Figgis or Isobel Prowse at the Parish Church.

THE HYMN FESTIVAL

On Friday 15th June 2018 around 60 people assembled in our church, and heard our Session Clerk open the HYMN FESTIVAL.

I opened with a short welcome, and a quote from Revelation 19.5. "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God..."

We sang "Now thank we all our God," and other time-honoured hymns. I gave a few biographical details to a few of the authors. The music is still in my head, the one which begins, "When peace like a river," from Mission Praise being one.

It goes, "It is well, with my soul."

We sang "Just as I am, without one plea," to the tune they used at the Harringay Crusade in 1954.

A lady spoke to me afterwards to say that she remembered that one from the Glasgow Crusade in 1955.

To God be the glory, and may the evening be remembered by thankful souls for the remainder of their lives. JF

Choir Practice starts again 3rd August at 5.45pm. Callum is keen to welcome new members. You don't need to be able to read music. It's great fun!

What's going on.....

Over the Spring and Summer there have been various events in the Church including a Hymn Festival, Quiz, Summer Fair and Wee Night of Entertainment.

We continue to have the Church open one Thursday every month to allow anyone to pop in for a coffee and a chat or just to have some quiet time.

Summer Coffee Mornings have started with the next one on 11th August and then 25th August from 10 am – 12 noon in the Church Hall. Proceeds from the Summer Coffee Mornings will go towards improvements planned for the kitchen and toilet in the Church.

Sunday School will be starting the first Sunday after School goes back. If you know a child who might be interested further information can be obtained from Aileen Stoddart.

Everyone is welcome to the Induction Service for Rev Alison Burnside, our new Minister, on 20th September followed by a Social Evening. Watch out for more details.

Treasurer – Fiona McGregor

Folk often ask how they can continue to contribute to the collection when they are unable to get to Church or do not attend regularly. If you contact Fiona she can advise how to do this either by a Standing Order from your Bank or we can figure out another method.

Supporting the Church events is also a way of contributing. Coming along to one of our Coffee Mornings is a great way to stay in touch with the Church and contribute to day to day running costs. Why not watch out for some of the events we have from time to time – like the Summer Fair and Hymn Festival – they are fun and everyone is welcome.



Our Summer Fair was a great success with fun and games for all the family, craft stalls and light refreshments. Colin, Louise and Ryan demonstrate the Human Fruit Machine which was a huge hit, as was Soak the Elder with Jimmy & Oonagh taking a soaking for the team! Thanks to all who made it a special day.



Peter & John

Chewing the Fat!



A Wee Night of Entertainment in July was a relaxed evening of fun with a short play (Elaine, Maureen, Ann, Jacqueline and Louise dressed in their finery) followed by the Fox and Hound Cubs entertaining with songs from the shows. What a talented bunch they are.

